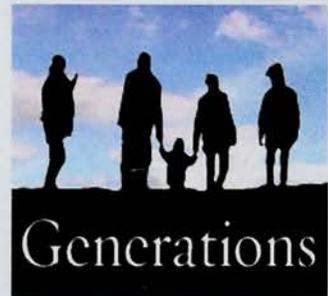


the JEWISH VOICE

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Serving Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts

17 Tevet 5774 | December 20, 2013



ISRAEL'S BLIZZARD OF 2013

Snow, lack of power, threatened health and safety



LETTERS HOME

DANIEL STIEGLITZ

JERUSALEM – For the most part, I don't check the weather in Israel. As it only rains in the winter, at least fifty percent of the year has a forecast of "warm and sunny." Then the winter season comes and we literally pray for rain. As a desert country, we are very dependent on the winter rainfall. Every once in a while, Is-

SNOW | 14

Subsidizing Jewish preschool works

BY STEVEN B. NASATIR

CHICAGO (JTA) – In response to the recent pledge by Jewish Federations of North America Chairman Michael Siegal to raise \$1 billion to support tuition-free Jewish preschool, some have dismissed the idea as just another pie-in-the-sky fix to the continuity problem. I disagree.

First, attending preschools (as well as day camps and overnight camps) are all normative experiences for American children, no matter their religion. Sending their children to preschool is what American parents do; that's why nearly 100 percent of Jewish children attend preschool.

Of those children, about 30 percent attend Jewish preschool. Were Jewish preschool free or significantly subsidized, it seems reasonable to expect that attendance at Jewish pre-



Jewish preschool offers many opportunities for children

school would rise as high as 70 percent or more, depending on the level of subsidy.

Especially in light of the findings from the recent Pew Research Center survey of U.S. Jews, it seems imperative that we recognize the fact that American Jewish behaviors reflect normative American behaviors. In that vein, our chal-

PRESCHOOL | 6



State House Candle Lighting Ceremony

BY ELANAH CHASSEN

Hanukkah has always been my favorite Jewish holiday and no, not because of the presents, but because my family makes it a point to set aside time to be together each night. Singing

the Hanukkah blessings, lighting the menorah, and singing songs has always given me such joy. This joy comes from being with my family, but also stems from the awareness of people throughout the world sharing similar moments and feelings.

It's a feeling of unity, with my family and those around the world lighting their menorahs. I was thankful to have the opportunity to light the menorah in various

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THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE

**"Every healthcare
 resident needs an
 advocate."**

To Our Readers:

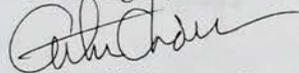
The 2013-2014 Guide to Jewish Living has been inserted into this issue.

First, let me join with the entire Jewish Voice Team in thanking you for supporting the newspaper in 2013. Though our name is "The Jewish Voice," we are actually *your* voice and that voice can only be as strong as you make it. How? With comments, kudos and, yes, criticisms, too. Tell us what's working for you and tell us how we can improve.

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Thanks again,



Arthur C. Norman, Executive Editor
 anorman@jewishallianceri.org

Miriam Hospital in New Year's Day Rose Parade

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN
 Special to The Jewish Voice

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Miriam Hospital has partnered with New England Organ Bank (NEOB) to honor and remember those who gave the gift of life through organ and tissue donation. On January 1, the Donate Life Rose Parade Float titled "Light Up the World" will include a dedication garden made up of roses with handwritten dedications by hospital CEOs across the country, including one from Arthur J. Sampson, president of The Miriam Hospital.

Sampson said, "The Miriam Hospital and its staff recognize the value of, and need for, organ and tissue donation. Our rose dedication serves as a recognition of our commitment to organ donation. It is also to remember and thank those who have saved lives through the NEOB and to celebrate the recipients who are alive today. We are excited to be part of this celebration of life watched by millions on New Year's Day."

Since its debut on New Year's Day 2004, the Donate Life Rose Parade float has become the world's most visible campaign to inspire people to become organ and tissue donors. In addition to the 40 million viewers who watch the Rose Parade on TV and along the parade route, hundreds of events are held in cities and towns.

The rose dedication garden is part of the float's design which will transport 30 riders, whose own journeys as transplant recipients, living donors and family members of deceased organ, eye and tissue donors encompass the highs and lows that life has to offer. The float's 200-foot-long, heart-shaped pathway will be lined with 72 memorial "floragraph" portraits of deceased donors who are remembered every step of the way.

To register as an organ and tissue donor, do so through the state's driver's license renewal process or go to DonateLifeNewEngland.org to register online.

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When Christmas dinner is kosher

BY SUSAN SMOLLER

Special to the Jewish Voice

Temple Torat Yisrael of East Greenwich is lining up shoppers, cooks and servers in preparation for the congregation's 10th Annual Kosher Christmas Dinner. This is a meal served not at the congregation but at the Rhode Island Family Shelter in Warwick.

Beverly Goncalves, chair of Torat Yisrael's Social Action Committee, has volunteers from last year who had signed up to help again before last year's turkeys were even out of the oven! Torat Yisrael members have a great time cooking together: the annual side-dish marathon cooking session is a great social event for all the cooks as well. Rabbi Amy Levin always claims the "honor" of roasting and carving the turkeys. Every December, Goncalves contacts the Family Shelter staff to see how many residents will be at the Shelter for Christmas dinner. She's had to order two, three, or even four turkeys, depending on the need.

This year, the cooking crew is particularly excited since this is the first Kosher Christmas Dinner that will be prepared in Temple Torat Yisrael's brand new kitchen in the congregation's Middle Road, East Greenwich, synagogue.

The Kosher Christmas Dinner project began in the winter of 2004/5, when Rabbi Levin and the Social Action Committee were looking for a project that would bring them in direct contact with the local commu-

nity. "The idea of offering to cook and serve a Kosher Christmas Dinner was so attractive to us," recalls Rabbi Levin. "We wanted to do more than just collect money for a good cause. It also occurred to me that if we took care of Christmas Dinner at the Rhode Island Family Shelter, we might free up some of the shelter's staff and volunteers to enjoy Christmas in their own homes with their families and friends."

There are usually three different teams of volunteers. Some people like to shop. Others like to cook. Yet others enjoy the opportunity to visit with the Family Shelter residents and chat with them as they serve up slices of turkey and portions of green beans, potatoes, salads and desserts.

This annual connection has led to other types of Torat Yisrael involvement with the Rhode Island Family Shelter. Last year, the bar and bat mitzvah class adopted the Family Shelter and members of the Torat Yisrael 7th grade class visited the children at the Family Shelter, read to them and played games with them. This fall, on the Sunday of the Jewish Alliance Educational Services Department's annual Zelniker Conference for Jewish Educators, Rabbi Levin organized a *Tikkun Olam* Day for Torat Yisrael students. The Kindergarten-1st Grade class made little gift bags for the Family Shelter students with Halloween-themed stick puppets and greeting cards. The Torat Yisrael 6th and 7th grade stu-



Marcia Slobin, front, right, a Torat Yisrael board member, and Laura Steele, a Torat Yisrael member and congregation librarian, serve Kosher Christmas dinner to the residents of the Rhode Island Family Shelter.

dents made a series of Halloween-themed jigsaw puzzles for the Family Shelter kids as well. Other projects that day were pictures drawn around verses from the Torah about gratitude that were displayed in the art gallery of the Atria Harbor Hill Assisted Living Facility in East Greenwich and "Thank you for your service" cards sent to the residents of the Veterans Home in Bristol.

The Kosher Christmas Dinner project has transformed Christmas for these Torat Yisrael volunteers. Now Christmas has become much more than a day off for Chinese food and a movie; it is now a day for sharing warmth and joy and hospitality and friendship — values everyone can embrace.

Susan Smoller (president@toratysisrael.org) is president of Temple Torat Yisrael.



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Saying goodbye to an Israeli legend



Arik Einstein

BY MATAN GRAFF

A few weeks ago, on November 26, Israelis said goodbye to one of the greatest artists Israel has ever known, Arik Einstein (see obituary in the Dec. 6 issue of The Voice). Einstein, 74, Israeli singer, songwriter and actor, died and left the people of Israel with tears in their eyes.

Arik Einstein songs: "Ani Ve'ata" (You and I), "Sa le'at" (Drive Slowly), "Oof Gozal" (Fly Away, Little Bird), "Atur Mitzchech" (Your Forehead Is Decorated) and many more, became the soundtrack of the Israeli nation.

Many public figures in Israel such as Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, expressed sorrow after Einstein's death, stating, "Arik was the greatest of them all. We all grew up on his songs. You said, 'Arik Einstein,' and

you said, 'the Land of Israel.' He was a wonderful singer and a wonderful person."

President Shimon Peres said that Einstein's, "musical notes will continue to fill the country, even after his passing. He equally excited our first generations and young generations. He wrote his songs during our difficult days and during our uplifting moments. I loved his songs, and knew what many others know: there was no one else like him."

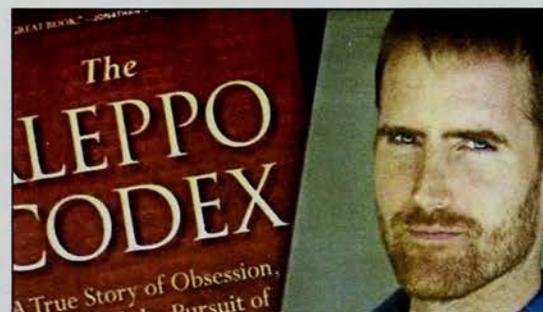
I didn't personally know Arik Einstein. Most Israelis didn't either. He wasn't a star that was looking to make money every day of his life. He was a pure musician, an artist that has created his songs with passion and love to music. But all Israelis knew his songs, watched the movies he was in, waited for years, hoping he will perform again (he stopped performing in the 80s).

I grew up listening to his music. From his kid's music CDs to his current songs. I loved them all. I would never forget my elementary school graduation when my entire grade sang his song "Oof Gozal." The song is about a young bird that leaves the nest for the first time. High school, army, traveling all over the world - Einstein's songs were always there for me.

I heard the news about his death while driving to one of the schools in the community. I was really upset. I realized how big an impact Einstein songs had on my childhood and on my life. I opened my Israeli radio app and listened to "Galgaltz" (popular Israeli radio station). They were playing his songs all day long as a tribute. I called my brother and asked, "What happened?" and he answered, "Today, we lost a legend." On Facebook, all my friends had written posts for his memory. Everyone wanted to say goodbye in their own way. So, goodbye, Arik Einstein. And thank you!

Arik Einstein was buried in Trumpeldor Cemetery in Tel Aviv. Prior to the funeral, his body lay in state in Rabin Square, where thousands gathered to pay their respect.

Matan Graff (MGraf@jewishallianceri.org) is Israel's Shaliach (Emissary) to Rhode Island.



Sam Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature

Canadian-Israeli journalist wins \$100,000

BY KIYARA LEIS
Special to The Jewish Voice

The Jewish Book Council has been awarding the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature to an emerging writer since 2007. The winner of the Sami Rohr Prize is awarded with \$100,000, the largest sum given as a literary prize. It recognizes the distinct role modern writers play in describing and examining Jewish life both in the present and past. It is given to fiction and non-fiction writers in alternating years.

The Prize derived its name from noted philanthropist and businessman Sami Rohr, who died in July of 2012 at the age of 86. Rohr felt that his philanthropy was an investment in the future of the Jewish people and he was dedicated to Jewish education, culture and community.

The 2014 winner of the Sami

Rohr Prize is the Canadian-Israeli journalist Matti Friedman, author of the non-fiction book, "The Aleppo Codex: A True Story of Obsession, Faith, and the Pursuit of an Ancient Bible" (Algonquin Books). The Aleppo Codex was written in 930 C.E. and is the oldest surviving manuscript of the Bible and considered the most accurate version of the Hebrew Bible. The Codex is located in a hidden vault at the Israel Museum. Although it is considered to be in good condition given its age, it is also missing several hundred pages, or about forty percent of its entire context.

When Friedman happened to encounter the Codex in Jerusalem, he felt that he had a duty to investigate what had happened to missing pages and bring the criminals responsible to justice. In

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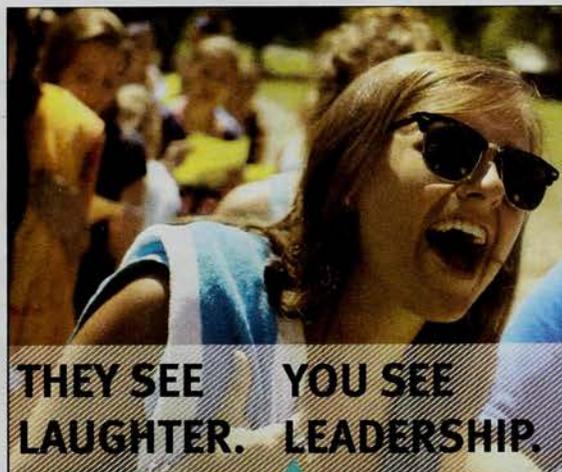
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Mothers Circle Annual Hanukkah party

BY KIT HASPEL

On Tuesday evening December 3, a group of Mothers Circle alumnae and their families gathered in the Temple Emanu-El vestry for the fifth annual Mothers Circle Hanukkah party. Mothers Circle, a program created by the Jewish Outreach Institute and funded locally by the Jewish Alliance, welcomes and teaches women of other religious backgrounds who are raising Jewish children.

Moms, dads and even grandparents were in attendance, along with children ranging from six weeks to eleven years old. After lighting the candles and feasting on latkes, the group was led in an innovative game of dreidel by Rabbi Elan Babchuk – innovative because, in an effort to “get rid of” some extra Frisbees, Rabbi Babchuk decreed that anyone landing on a Nun would receive a Frisbee. (As one can imagine, this led to the need to keep the younger members of the party from tossing Frisbees inside.)

This is an event the Mothers Circle families have come to anticipate. When three-year-old Anna Sherer arrived in a party dress, her mother Jen remarked that Anna had been looking forward to this party for days. Later, Jen said, “I really can’t get over how excited Anna was for the party and how much she remembered about last year’s party. I’m glad it will be one of her precious childhood memories, since giving her good Jewish memories is something that won’t always come easily for me (or at least not naturally!)”

Even though they were at a conflicting event, Shelly Feinstein and her five-year-old son Hunter managed to stop in. And the family of Laura Cohan raced from basketball practice at 6th grader Josh’s school. Cynthia Sparr noted that, “The Hanukkah party is a wonderful family event. Not only do we get to catch up with our Mothers Circle friends but our kids also have the opportunity to meet other Mothers Circle families and become comfortable in the temple set-



Back to front along table: Jen Sherer, Rabbi Elan Babchuk; William and Ilan Davis; Noah Ross with grandmother Donna. Standing behind: Anya Davis

ting, eat traditional latkes and have a blast playing dreidel with the rabbi!”

This year, as a *tzedakah* project, the families brought in donations of new socks, underwear and diapers for Project Undercover. They managed to over-fill a large box, making

“I’m glad it will be one of her precious childhood memories.”

it so heavy that many of its contents had to be carried out separately.

As the families left, being “forced” to take leftover food with them, veteran of three Mothers Circle Hanukkah parties Donna Ross, grandmother of Noah and Elliot (and mother-in-law of Mothers Circle alumna Maria) made a point of saying that she and her husband would be back again next year.

The fifth annual Hanukkah



PHOTOS | KIT HASPEL

Back to front (counter clockwise): Anna Sherer with mother Jen; Sophie Josephs on her leg; Lauren Sparr; Anya Davis, standing, followed by sons William and Ilan; Noah Ross

the JEWISH VOICE

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Matan Graff, Elanah Chassen, Richard Licht, Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer

FROM PAGE 1 STATEHOUSE

locations this year with several people, including a few nights with my family in New Jersey, the University of Rhode Island's Hillel, my alma mater, and the State House.

On the 6th night of Hanukkah, Monday, December 2, community members gathered at the State House for a luminous candle lighting ceremony. Before lighting the menorah, Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer, Director of Chabad-Lubavitch of Rhode Island, spoke about the message of Hanukkah. He explained that unity and goodness are inherent in the world and is within each human being. The lesson of the Hanukkah candles is a lesson that applies to all – that by increasing the light of acts of goodness, one illuminates his life, warms his soul, heals the spirit, and brings true peace and light to all people of the world.

Community members took turns lighting one candle until

all six candles burned brightly. Matan Graff, the Alliance Israeli Emissary had the honor of lighting one of these candles. Richard Licht, past President of the Jewish Alliance and present Director of Administration for the State of Rhode Island, also lit one of the candles. Following the lighting, Licht commented about how unique this Hanukkah was because it fell on Thanksgiving – a remarkable time in history that will not happen for another 70,000 years. The ceremony continued with lively singing of traditional Hanukkah songs. The singing was accompanied by Marc Adler playing his clarinet. Children danced and sang along. It was a lively celebration for all. The evening concluded with homemade latkes – what better way to end the night?

Elanah Chassen (echassen@jewishallianceri.org) is Education and Planning Associate for The Jewish Alliance.

FROM PAGE 1 PRESCHOOL

lenge is not so much to change Jewish behavior – a herculean task, if not impossible – but to leverage that behavior by introducing significant Jewish content into normative practices like preschool.

Second, given the consensus about the importance of preschool to starting youngsters and their families on their Jewish journeys, let's be clear about what is and is not viable to propose. Advocates like me who wish to subsidize Jewish preschool are not proposing free tuition for every Jewish child for years. That simply would be unaffordable and unsustainable.

Rather, we propose providing a substantial gift voucher to families to help offset the cost of participation – something my federation colleagues in Chicago, Palm Beach County, Fla., and Western Massachusetts have been doing for a number of years through the Right Start program.

The Right Start voucher – a maximum of \$2,000 with no means test – applies to tuition for a family's first child to attend any participating preschool. The amount of subsidy depends on how many days a week the child attends (\$2,000 for five days a week proportionately less for fewer days).

In Chicago, Right Start helped increase the percentage of Jewish children attending Jewish preschools from 30 to 40 percent in just a few years. Imagine if the full cost were paid for the first child in the family. No doubt the number enrolled would rise dramatically.

How can we make that happen throughout the United

States?

One strategy would be to establish a large national fund to match local community contributions. If the full cost of five-day enrollment were, say, \$7,000, the national fund would match the local community's \$3,500 gift to the parent. By requiring the local community to pay half the cost, we would ensure long-term financial sustainability.

Third, some have expressed concern about program quality. In that regard, I advise caution. While the national federation system should have the capacity to offer a model and mechanism for subsidizing tuition for Jewish preschool, it should not attempt to meddle in local program curriculum, teaching standards or other operational areas. To do so would be a recipe for disaster for reasons beyond the scope of this Op-Ed.

In Chicago's experience, the Jewish preschool marketplace has responded admirably to parental needs and concerns regarding quality. The best evidence is that parents are returning the subsidized child to Jewish preschool after the first year, when the subsidy no longer applies. Further, 89 percent of parents report an excellent overall experience with their preschool choice.

Were Jewish preschool enrollments to double or triple in the next decade, the competition among Jewish preschool providers should result in enhanced quality. In addition, unlike other Jewish activities that expand with expanding deficits, Jewish preschools generally operate without deficits and often show profit.

Moreover, if our goal is to engage families in Jewish life, subsidized preschool is a smart investment.

In Chicago, 85 percent of parents said that having a child attend a Jewish early childhood education program increased their connection to the Jewish community, their motivation to enhance their Jewish practice and their involvement with Jewish organizations. Two-thirds said sending their children to Jewish preschool has influenced their decision to celebrate Shabbat more often or in a different way. Following preschool, 87 percent of parents said they plan to send their children to Hebrew school or Jewish day school, and 43 percent said they would send them to Jewish camp.

By floating the concept of universal Jewish preschool, Siegal and Jewish Federations of North America CEO Jerry Silverman reinforced an important concept in the national imagination – that early Jewish engagement leads to more Jewish engagement.

I'll end where I began. Preschool is a normal activity in the United States. Bringing Jewish preschool costs below market costs of other preschools or making it just free for the first child in a family will spike enrollment.

Let's help parents make the right choice and give their children a Right Start by subsidizing or making free Jewish preschool available now.

Steven B. Nasatir is president of the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

NEAT Chagiga

BY ADINA MALKA YUDKOWSKY

Special to The Jewish Voice

Whew! What a packed, inspiring Hanukkah it has been for the New England Academy of Torah. On Tuesday December 3, more than 100 women and girls attended the annual NEAT Chagiga (Celebration) in celebration of Hanukkah. The evening began with beautiful words of Torah from 11th grader Tzippy Berkowitz and Chagiga advisor Mrs. Tzippy Scheinerman. Everyone clutched their passports in their hands as they sat and listened, since the theme was "Around the World in 8 Days", all of those who attended were "tourists."

Following the words of Torah, a fabulous and cute video entitled "Miracles" from New York Boys Choir was shown to help everyone catch the

spirit. As for the choir that followed, I certainly hope it was pretty and pleasant, but I can't comment on it since I was a member. All of our tourists then began to walk around the room, stopping at all of the colorful and fun tables to do varied activities. Each table represented a different country, and there were – eight tables!

The activities at each table related to a country. For example, Greece served Greek salad. At each table, our tourists earned a sticker for their passports and everyone who earned eight stickers got a cute country pin. There was also a raffle for all of the participants and Shifra Bracha Purec was the grand prize winner. Mazal tov! Our final activity was an amazing and spirited holiday dancing!



MRS. TZIPPY SCHEINERMAN

Chagiga heads left to right Tziporah Kapilevich, Minya Schochet and Ronit Stukalov at the "Around The World in 8 Days" booth

Parashat Shemot

BY RABBI ANDREW KLEIN

My Aunt Audrey came into our family when I was 15 years old. Our connection was instantaneous; she became my hero and was my champion for the next 40 years.

Audrey had overcome great obstacles and pain in her life. She was articulate, outspoken and smart; she had strong opinions about everything. Though not at all religious, Audrey was a deeply spiritual person; her eyes were open to the wonders of the world, often with a child-like innocence. Aunt Audrey truly appreciated simple gestures, and she delighted in my accomplishments – great and small. She was my cheerleader and advocate in every way imaginable.

Like so many people, I was truly blessed to have an adult in my life other than my parents who took the time to truly see me and value me. Remembering our family heroes, recalling their names and telling their stories, keeps our loved ones alive through the generations.

This entire issue of the Jewish Voice is dedicated to our family heroes and it will be published during the week that we are studying the Torah portion, *Shemot* – literally meaning “Names.” *Shemot* tells the story of our people becoming enslaved by Pharaoh and introduces us to Moses, the infant who would grow up to lead the

Israelites out of bondage and become the greatest Jewish prophet of all time.

Before telling the dramatic story of our redemption from slavery in Egypt, *Shemot* begins by tracing the lineage of the Israelite people. “These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each coming with his household.” (Exodus 1:1)

The ancient Israelites remembered their ancestors and honored the memory of their “Family Heroes” by listing their specific names even during painful and difficult times.

Our tradition instructs us to remember all of our personal and family history, and not just the easy parts. A Midrash teaches that when Moses descended Mount Sinai with the tablets of God’s Law, he was so enraged at seeing the Israelites worshipping the Golden Calf, he threw the tablets down and smashed them to pieces. However, rather than discarding them, the pieces were considered an important part of us; they were kept in the Ark alongside the second intact set of tablets.

The Torah teaches us that there is value in our brokenness. Our mistakes help us grow as much as our accomplishments – perhaps more. Our flaws are part of who we are and they are to be respected. We honor our family heroes best in this same way. We remember all aspects

of their lives – their flaws along with their attributes.

Make no mistake, life with Aunt Audrey wasn’t always a picnic; she pushed me hard and expected a great deal from me. She let me get away with nothing; in fact, at times, she was a bit scary. But I knew that, too, was her way of constantly encouraging me to work hard and be the very best me that I could be. She was my hero.

Does your family tell stories

“Our mistakes help us grow as much as our accomplishments – perhaps more.”

about previous generations? Do you know important details about the lives of the people you were named after? Who was the person in your family who saw you unequivocally and inspired you to be the person you are today? Do you remember that person, say their name and tell their story frequently, keeping their spirit and memory vibrant and alive for future generations?

When we say the Names and remember, we stand on the shoulders of our heroes and gain support from them every day. The greatest lesson that I carry from Aunt Audrey, *ad hazom hazeh*, to this very day, is

the importance of seizing every moment of every day. She valued the gift of life tremendously; she could squeeze more out of a 24-hour period than anyone I have ever known. When I push myself to do and achieve more than is comfortable, I think of Aunt Audrey, of blessed memory, and I know how proud she would be of me today.

Use the gift of this week’s Torah portion (and it is a gift – a gift that is new and renewed each and every week) to reflect on who your family heroes are to you. Think about the gifts they have offered you, and then think about ways that you can use them to inspire the next generation.

The good news is that even if you don’t know that much about your family heroes, it isn’t too late to start the tradition now. Talk to your parents, siblings, nieces, nephews, kids and grandkids. Tell them everything you can remember about your family.

Bring the idea of “Family Heroes” down to earth by telling the truth – about you and your forebears. Forge a strong link in our *Shalshelet HaKabbalah*, our chain of tradition, not only by telling the next generation about your accomplishments and successes, but also by telling them about who you really are – your successes, failures, disappointments, regrets, your dreams and hopes realized and unfulfilled.

Be someone’s champion; create a name that someday will truly be of blessed memory.

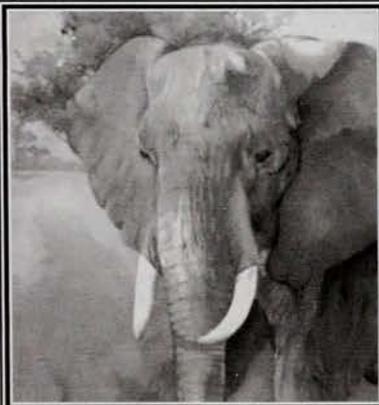
Rabbi Andrew Klein (afk1313@cox.net) is Rabbi of Temple Habonim in Barrington and a member of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island.



Candle Lighting Times

Greater Rhode Island

Dec. 20	3:59
Dec. 27	4:03
Jan. 3	4:09
Jan. 10	4:16



“Strength of Remembrance”
Artist - Jeanne Bonine

Artists, as well as public and private art galleries throughout the United States, join with Alzheimer’s Art in the effort to find a cure for Alzheimer’s disease.

Learn more at:
www.alzheimersart.org

DO YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT CHANGES IN YOUR MEMORY?

The Scope Study, at Rhode Island Hospital, was designed with you in mind.

If you ...

1. Are between the ages of 65 and 80
2. Have a family history (mother, father, sister or brother) of Alzheimer’s Disease and...
3. Are interested in learning more about the Scope Study

For more information

Call: 401-444-4507

This is a research study to determine if tests that measure how you think can predict the risk of dementia as we age.

CALENDAR

Ongoing

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

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

Continuing Through Jan. 2

Prints, Landscapes and Cut Paper Wall Sculpture. Works of three RI artists: Carol FitzSimonds, Wendy Ingram and Robert Pillsbury, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. Gallery hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Fridays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and by appointment. 245-6536 or gallery@templehabonim.org

Friday | Dec. 20

Shalom Friends. Music and movement for children ages 0-5. Jewish Community Day School of RI, 85 Taft Ave., Providence. 10 - 11 a.m. info@jcdsri.org

Early Shabbat for the Little Ones. Special story, candles, challah, songs and light supper. Congregation Beth David, 102 Kingstown Rd, Narragansett. 5:45 - 7:00 p.m. Stephanie at sjmalinow@gmail.com

Tuesday | Dec. 24

Alliance JCC Holiday Hours. Fitness Center: 5 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Pool: 5:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; ECC: 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; J-Cation: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Alliance Office: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Red Cross Blood Drive. Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 North Main St., Attleboro, MA. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. office@agudasma.org or http://www.agudasma.org. 1-800 RED CROSS (733-2767) or www.redcrossblood.org to make an appointment

Wednesday | Dec. 25

Alliance JCC Holiday Hours. Fitness Center: 7 - 11 a.m.; Pool: 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.; ECC: Closed; J-Space: Closed; Alliance Office: Closed

Agudas Achim Volunteer Event at Sturdy Memorial Hospital. Complimentary morning coffee/snack and lunch for all volunteers. Sturdy Memorial Hospital, 211 Park St., Attleboro, MA. David London at 383-1268 or londondavid@aol.com; Ina and Howard Novinsky at (508) 285-9408 or howardnovinsky@comcast.net

Tuesday | Dec. 31

Alliance JCC Holiday Hours. Fitness Center: 5 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Pool: 5:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; ECC: 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; J-Cation: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Alliance Office: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Jazz at EPOCH on Blackstone. Jazz musician Larry Perlman accompanied by four-piece band. EPOCH Senior Living, 353 Blackstone Boulevard, Providence. 1:30 p.m. 273-6565

Wednesday | Jan. 1

Alliance JCC Holiday Hours. Fitness Center: 7 - 11 a.m.; Pool: 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.; ECC: Closed; J-Space: Closed; Alliance Office: Closed

Thursday | Jan. 2

Am David Lunch & Learn. Join Rabbi Perlman for Kosher deli lunch and discussion of the weekly Torah portion. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. Noon. \$10. RSVP in advance to 463-7944 or Rabbiperlman@cox.net

Friday | Jan. 3

K'Tantan Shabbat. Shabbat experience for young families, followed by family Shabbat dinner. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. 5:30 p.m. http://www.temple-beth-el.org/ or info@temple-beth-el.org or 331-6070

Shabbat Chai Shabbat Alive. Interactive Shabbat service with congregational participation combines musical instruments with traditional and new melodies, followed by dinner. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. 5:45 p.m. - pre-neg; 6 p.m. service; 7 p.m. - dinner. http://www.teprov.org/shabbat_alive or bjmayert@teprov.org; dinner reservations at http://www.teprov.org/shabbat_chai_dinner_reservation_form

Saturday | Jan. 4

Koleinu Our Voices. Shabbat morning service open to children and young adults with special needs and their families who choose to pray in an intimate and welcoming setting. Followed by kid-dush lunch. Temple Emanu-El Chapel, 99 Taft Ave. Providence. 10:30 a.m. - noon. Carol Gualtieri at cgualtieri@teprov.org or 331-1616

Sunday | Jan. 5

Alliance JCC Open House. Free day of fun for all: Try a fitness class, swim in the pool, see a film. Learn about all the programs. 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 861-8800.

PJ Library Story Hour. Story and craft to celebrate Jewish holidays and traditions for youngsters aged 2-7. Congregation Beth David, 102 Kingstown Rd, Narragansett. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Stephanie at sjmalinow@gmail.com

CALENDAR | 9

Calendar Submissions

Calendar items for our Jan. 3 HEALTH & WELLNESS issue must be received by Dec. 19.

Calendar items for our Jan. 17 BRIDAL issue must be received by Jan. 8.

Calendar items for our Jan. 31 issue FINANCE | PHILANTHROPY must be received by Jan. 22.

Send all calendar items to anorman@jewishallianceri.org, subject line: "CALENDAR."



AMY OLSON

URI Hillel and JORI

More than 90 University of Rhode Island students attended URI Hillel's Hanukkah Party at the Norman M. Fain Hillel Center on December 4. Pictured is the Camp JORI contingent - staff and former campers. Matan Graff (Israeli Shaliach and Camp JORI Rosh Mishlachah), left, Sage Dauphinee (junior), Lily Neito (senior), Aaron M. Guttin (URI Jewish Student Life Coordinator and Camp JORI Assistant Waterfront Director), and Ellie Rosen, Aaron Libman, Allie Robbio and Sara Larkin, all sophomores.

Jeffrey K. Savit, President & CEO of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island invites you to

Town Hall Meeting
Thursday, January 16 | 7pm
Alliance JCC | 401 Elmgrove Avenue Providence

Fern Chertok, researcher at the Steinhardt Social Research Institute of Brandeis University, will discuss her recent report "Living on the Edge: Economic Insecurity among Jewish Households in Greater Rhode Island." A copy of the report is available at jewishallianceri.org.



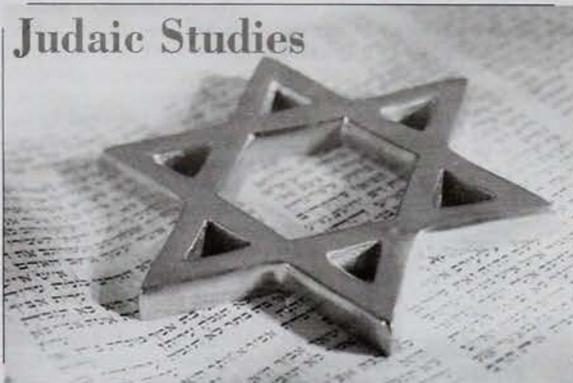
FIND US: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JVHRI

Judaic Studies Program in URI's future?

Several roadblocks persist

BY JUSTIN WILLNER
Special to The Jewish Voice

At the University of Rhode Island, there are many faculty members who support the idea of a full-fledged Judaic Studies program. Despite this, few Judaic Studies courses are taught each semester. "We want to ensure that these important areas of study will not be lost," said Dean Winifred Brownell, of the College of Arts and Sciences. "We have been offering courses in the field for decades." Judaic Studies courses have been taught in several areas, including history, philosophy and language. However, there are several roadblocks in the way of creating a Judaic Studies



Klezmer Conservatory Orchestra to perform.

More core-content courses need to become available at URI before there can be a Judaic Studies major. "We're trying to build a minor first," Brownell said. "It's on the way, but we'll see." Brownell says that the administration at URI has generally been enthusiastic about the idea. URI President David Dooley showed his support by attending a meeting in Florida to talk about Judaic Studies. "I'm excited about our future," Brownell said.

In the Spring 2014 semester, Dr. Alan Verskin is teaching a course called Jews of Islamic Lands: A History. "One of the closest relationships is between Jews and Islamic people," said Verskin. "Why were these Jews in the Middle East? What is the history between Jews and Islam?" The course, which includes studies of Jewish philosophy, theology and poetry,

will also touch upon gender issues and the diversity of Jewish people from different parts of Europe. Verskin encourages all URI students and community members to enroll or even audit the class.

Brownell and her colleagues plan to continue working towards a full-fledged Judaic Studies Program and are optimistic about the future. "I want our students to enter the world as effective global citizens that understand history, politics, and religion," Brownell said. "Jews play such an integral part of history in many countries."

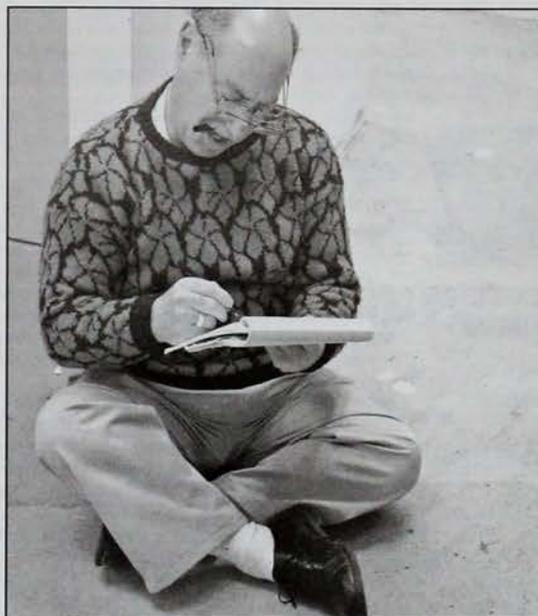
Justin Willner (justinwillner@gmail.com) is a fifth-year journalism student at the University of Rhode Island.

"I want our students to enter the world as effective global citizens that understand history, politics and religion."

program.

"We don't have the funding for a full-fledged program," Brownell said. "In the past, we've chosen to put aside expanding academics in favor of building the URI Hillel Center." While one sponsor has stepped forward, Brownell and other faculty members are still looking for more donations. Brownell and faculty have been actively holding fundraiser events, including inviting the

At The Voice office



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FROM PAGE 8 CALENDAR

Opening Reception at Habonim Gallery.

36 works by 21 artists, members of Lifelong Learning Collaborative Plein Air class. Wine and cheese reception. Show continues through Feb. 27. Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. 1 - 3 p.m. 245-6536 or gallery@templehabonim.org.

Wednesday | Jan. 8

Israeli Culture Through Film: "HaOlam Mats'hik (The World is Funny)." The world is wondrously strange in this tender new drama from Israeli fabulist Sherni Zarhin (Aviva My Love, Noodle), hosted by Israeli Emissary Matan Graff. Film contains nudity and sexual content. Alliance JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. 7 - 9 p.m. \$5; JCC members \$3. Erin Moseley at emoseley@jewishallianceri.org or 421-4111 ext. 108

Thursday | Jan. 9

Fight Bullying One Novel at a Time.

"Anti-bullying novelist" Elaine Wolf with special introduction by Marc J. Ladin, retired principal and author of The Playground Bully Blues. Jewish Alliance of Greater RI, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. 7 p.m. Marty Cooper at mcooper@jewishallianceri.org or 421-4111 ext. 171

Habonim Adult Education "Time for Me" Series.

Dr. Stephen Kaplan discusses "Creation of the Jewish Homeland in Israel and America: 1880 to 2013." Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. 7 p.m. 245-6536, www.templehabonim.org or office@templehabonim.org.

Florence Markoff - Sunday, Dec. 22

Due to threatening weather forecast for the weekend of Dec. 14-15, Temple Torat Yisrael, has rescheduled its coffee and dessert with Hall of Fame broadcaster Florence Markoff to 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Decem-

ber 22. Temple Torat Yisrael is located at 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich.

For more information: 885-6600 or toratyisrael.org

EVERYONE DESERVES TO BE A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

Open House
Sunday, January 5 | 10am - 5pm
401 Elm Grove Avenue, Providence

Join the Alliance JCC as we open our doors for a free day of fun for everyone! Come inside and make yourself at home.

- Try a fitness class.
- Swim in the pool.
- See a film.
- Learn about our vast array of programs.
- Have fun with your kids.

And do it all free of charge—our treat.

Visit jewishallianceri.org for our full schedule of events!

 **Jewish Alliance**
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Free programs such as this are made possible by the generosity of donors to the Jewish Alliance who deeply believe that there should be community places, spaces, and experiences that are accessible to everyone.

Alea iacta est

Barely one week ago, nearly to the day of the one-year anniversary of the horrific slaughter of 20 innocent first-graders and six heroic adults at the Sandy



EXECUTIVE EDITOR

ARTHUR C. NORMAN

Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, another sick individual, this one upset after being cut from his Colorado high school debate team, opened fire and grievously wounded school senior Claire Davis in her head then killed himself. As of this writing, she remains in a coma.

Alea iacta est – the die has been cast. Written on the shooter's arm, along with numbers corresponding to the room numbers of the school library and other classrooms, signalled to investigators that this coward with a gun had other targets in his ill mind's sights when he brought a rapid firing pump action shotgun, three Molotov cocktails, over 100 rounds of ammunition and a machete to his Colorado school that day. Colorado! Columbine! Aurora!

Authorities said that the lessons learned from the senseless slaughter at Columbine High School – fast, aggressive armed response – prevented this attack from being even more deadly, considering the firepower the madman brought with him.

Lessons learned? My God, lessons learned?! Since the Columbine carnage, there have been thirty-one mass shootings in our country, many of the deaths involving our youngest and most vulnerable – innocent children.

Since the one – one – failed

Ex-U.N. envoy calls for Pollard's release

WASHINGTON (JTA) – Bill Richardson, the former U.N. ambassador known for his efforts to release American captives overseas, called on President Obama to free Jonathan Pollard immediately.

In a Dec. 10 letter to Obama, whom he endorsed after dropping out of the 2008 presidential race, Richardson noted that an increasing number of figures involved in government when Pollard was given a 1987 life sentence for spying for Israel now believe his sentence should be commuted.

"In my view, there is no longer

shoe bomb attempt in 2001, millions, no, hundreds of millions, of airline travelers have had to remove their shoes for inspection.

How many airliners have plummeted from the sky because of a shoe bomb? How many firearm regulations have been adopted?

Since the Sandy Hook tragedy, nearly 31,000 Americans have been killed by firearms, according to addictinginfo.org. 31,000! In the time it took to write this column, two hours, eight people have died by gunfire.

Haven't we had enough of the National Rifle Association's specious argument that "guns don't kill people, people kill people"? A majority of the country: Democrats, Independents, Republicans – yes, Republicans too – and even a majority of National Rifle Association members, themselves, reject the notion that the absence of regulations for firearms is what the framers of The Constitution wanted. Remember the "well-regulated militia" thing? What happened to that?

Iacta alea est, verum est? Is it true that the die is cast? Is it true that no meaningful change can happen to make our stadiums, our schools and that which we hold most precious – our children – safe from senseless death?

I hope not. Plato said that rhetoric without truth is dangerous but that truth without rhetoric is worthless. Speak up. Speak out. Speak to our representatives in government. Tell them about background checks. Tell them about universal mental health care. Tell them enough lives have been needlessly sacrificed. Tell them to cast the die for life.

a need for a discussion today," Richardson wrote. "Virtually everyone who was in a high position of government – and dealt with the ramifications of what Pollard did at the time – now support his release."

Richardson, also the ex-governor of New Mexico, wrote that former National Security Advisor Bud McFarlane and former Assistant Secretary of Defense Lawrence Korb placed much of the blame for Pollard's lengthy incarceration on former Secretary of State Casper Weinberger's negative views of Israel.

Joseph's many colors

Parashat Ha-shavuah

The story of Joseph and his brothers is the longest continuous narrative in our entire Torah; its telling takes four consecutive readings of the parashat ha-shavuah, the weekly Shabbat Torah portion – this year extending from November 23 through December 14. The story begins with the first verse of Genesis, chapter 37, and concludes with chapter 50, verse 26, the final words of our first Biblical



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

book, which inform us that Joseph died at the age of 110, was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt.

"Jacob settled in the land of his father's sojourning, in the land of Canaan. This, then, is the line of Jacob: Joseph was seventeen years old and was shepherding the flock with his brothers..." (Genesis 37.1)

What a strange way to begin the story of Joseph and his brothers, as if Jacob, not Joseph, is at the center of the tale; yet in many ways it is Jacob who haunts and controls all twelve of the brothers. The actions of the twelve are driven by their desire to satisfy their absent father – absent, even when physically present; for Jacob's head and heart are consumed by his longing for his presumed dead favorite son, Joseph.

We meet Joseph for the first time as a tattletale, a spoiled brat who taunts his brothers by appearing before them in his coat of many colors, a clear token of his father's undisguised favoritism. Through his doting behavior, Jacob has reinforced his son's adolescent narcissism; the teenager is so insensitive to his brothers' feelings that he insists upon relating to them his dreams of grandeur and domination – dreams in which his entire family does obeisance to him, dreams in which he puts himself at the very cen-

ter of the universe.

The seventeen-year-old Joseph lives in his self-absorbed world, a dream world in which the sun, the moon, and eleven stars – symbols of his father, his dead mother Rachel, and his brothers – all bow down to him.

Many commentators see this Biblical tale as a precursor to the Bildungsroman, the coming of age story, in which the young immature Joseph builds himself up into a compassionate, competent, morally responsible adult, who ultimately saves his father, his brothers, along with their large families, from starving to death. Such interpreters see Joseph grow into a larger-than-life

"I see Joseph ... whose character unfolds in many colors, like that coat long ago presented to him by his doting father Jacob."

hero, who not only saves his family but also saves all Egypt from the ravages of famine through his intelligence, energy and foresight in preparing for "the seven lean years."

Others, admittedly a decided minority, – among them Maurice Samuel (1895-1972) in his "Certain People of the Book" (1955) – argue that, contrary to centuries of rabbinical white-washing, Joseph remains a self-serving, emotionally shallow adult. Samuel and others who follow his line of interpretation bring to bear considerable evidence to support this rather sour view of Joseph. To begin with, the manner in which he torments – indeed, psychologically tortures – his brothers before finally revealing his identity can be seen as indicative of an unrepentant, vengeful personality; his leading his brothers to believe that he was about to enslave Benjamin – an act which would surely drive their father Ja-

cob to madness or to death – was an act of especially savage cruelty.

Furthermore, the scene which unfolds in the splendor of Joseph's Egyptian residence when he does at last identify himself to his brothers (beginning of chapter 45) can be viewed as a carefully managed ploy to place Joseph where he always likes to be: center stage, star of the show. In this very same scene, in a subtle or not so subtle attempt to present himself as having a special relationship with God, Joseph tells his brothers: "So, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of all his household, and ruler over the whole land of Egypt." (Genesis 45.8)

Let these words be taken as Joseph's one-time attempt to assuage his brothers' guilt for their crime of selling him into slavery in Egypt, many years later he still feels the compulsion to allude to his "divine connection." In a question which reeks of false modesty, he asks his brothers, "Am I a substitute for God?" (Genesis 50.19) Should I ever be delusional enough to put such a question to my own brother, I would no doubt hear his immediate retort: "What are you thinking? In a million years it would never occur to me that you are a substitute for God."

I have read and reread the story of Joseph and his brothers with increasing delight and perplexity. It seems to me that the rabbis have been too easy on him, exaggerating his virtues and minimizing his flaws. On the other hand, Maurice Samuel is too hard on him, exaggerating his flaws and minimizing his virtues. I myself see Joseph as a man of multiple dimensions, broken in some ways but nevertheless profoundly gifted – a man whose character unfolds in many colors, like that coat long ago presented to him by his doting father Jacob.

James B. Rosenberg (rabbimeritus@templehabonim.org) is rabbi emeritus at Temple Habonim in Barrington.

OUR MISSION

The mission of The Jewish Voice 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 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 Jew-

ish Voice or the Alliance.

Send letters and op-eds to Arthur Norman at The Jewish Voice, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, RI 02906 or anorman@jewishalliancetri.org. Include name, city of residence and a contact phone number or email (not for publication).

LETTERS

Re: Battle of the Bravest (Dec. 6)

Hunter's poignant story is a reminder to us all that cancer picks no ages and no genders. Fight on, Hunter!

Hal Tillman

Editor's note: The results of Hunter Miller's latest scan show him to be free of cancer.

Re: Erica Denhoff runs to help others (Dec. 6)

I had the privilege of knowing Dr. Eric Denhoff and totally enjoyed reading your interview of his granddaughter Erica Denhoff. She seems to have his spirit with her while spreading *tikkun olam!*

Lewis Wintman
Providence

Re: Unhappy anniversary (Dec. 6)

I am pleased that you took up the cause of Jonathan Pollard in the current issue of the Voice.

For several years in the past I played a role as a confidant with the Pollard family, particularly his sister. The affair has proved to be a disgrace on our Federal Judiciary as well as a shame on the American Jewish Community which has taken a mostly hands off policy in relation to his trial and incarceration.

Sy Dill
Providence

Re: Knockin' on Heaven's Door (Nov. 8)

Thanks for your article by Rabbi Rosenberg on Bob Dylan in the Nov. 8 issue.

When I first entered Brown's Sayles Hall for a freshman convocation in September 1966, the lecture turned out not to be the dead-dull sermon we youngsters all anticipated, but rather "The Poetry of Bob Dylan," delivered by Professor George Monterio of the department of comparative literature.

Maybe, I'm sure we all thought to ourselves, this staid Ivy League place won't be so bad after all! (It wasn't.) I must confess that that morning was the first time I'd ever heard of Dylan!

Richard Funk
Providence

Re: The Jewish Voice

Barry Schiller's Dec. 6 Letter "Re: Reader opines on U.S. - Iran nuke pact" was startling. Mr. Schiller characterizes opponents of the deal with Iran as racists, extreme partisans, those who want to start a war with Iran, or those who want to gain politically. He does not admit the possibility that there are sincere people who think that this deal is a mistake.

This is not the first time that the Voice has allowed partisan name-calling to go unchallenged. Anthony D'Arosca recently wrote (November 22, Re: Voice reader challenges Klein) that he doesn't "know of any decent person who would want to go back to the old Republican robber baron days." His view of "decent" clearly refers only to people who think just like he does. For my part, I believe that decent people may disagree without being motivated by evil.

I am an independent voter who does not enjoy reading leftist diatribes in The Voice. What does "diversity" mean if you reject that fundamental difference, diversity of thought? Do you really stand for "tolerance" if you only tolerate speech that mirrors your own? Please print letters from readers who argue the issues instead of smearing opponents.

Robin Sper
North Smithfield

Re: The Jewish Voice

I am pleased to see the diversity of new writers and topics in the Jewish Voice. I am especially glad to see the paper reaching out to include news and events at synagogues OUTSIDE the East Side of Providence: such as Narragansett, URI, Middletown, and Newport. I invite you to check out Westerly's Sarah Zedek.

Ken Goldman, Ph.D.
West Kingston

WE HAVE A VOICE ... YOU HAVE A VOICE

You have a voice ... and The Jewish Voice wants to hear it. This paper is only as vibrant and robust as our readers make it, with kudos, comments, criticisms and other contributions such as: online comments, letters to the editor and op-ed submissions.

Letters to the editor: 250 words or fewer and must be signed. Op-ed essays: 500 - 800 words and must be signed. Send to anorman@jewishallianceri.org, subject line: OPINIONS. Questions? Call Arthur Norman at 421-4111, ext. 168.

Netanyahu cancels in-person address to Reform biennial

JERUSALEM (JTA) - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu canceled plans to speak in person to the biennial meeting of the Union for Reform Judaism. The announcement was made Tuesday, a day before the start of the conference, which was scheduled to run through Dec. 15 in San Diego, Calif., Haaretz reported.

Netanyahu addressed the closing plenary of the event via satellite, delivering prepared remarks and answering questions emailed prior to the event. "Although he had planned on being with us in person, the press of urgent business will keep Prime Minister Netanyahu in Israel," read a letter sent to conference participants,

Haaretz reported. "He has canceled his entire U.S. trip, and will join us live, via satellite, from Jerusalem." Netanyahu also declined to travel to the memorial service on Tuesday in Johannesburg for Nelson Mandela, citing the high cost of travel and security.

Cuban Jewish leaders meet with Alan Gross

(JTA) - Cuban Jewish leaders who met with Alan Gross said the imprisoned American-Jewish contractor "was in better spirits."

Havana community President Adela Dworkin and vice president David Prinstein met with Gross on the last day of Hanukkah, two days after Gross marked his fourth year in jail in Cuba, according to The Associated Press, citing a statement from the Beth Shalom Temple in Havana.

The Cuban Jewish leaders have met with Gross for other Jewish holidays throughout his imprisonment.

"During the encounter we could see that he was in better spirits, more physically recovered," the statement reportedly said.

Gross, 64, a subcontractor for the State Department on a mission to hook up Cuba's small Jewish community to the Internet, was arrested in December 2009 as he was leaving Cuba. The Maryland resident is serving a 15-year sentence for "crimes against the state."

Gross says he has lost 100 pounds since his imprisonment and suffers from painful arthritis. He reportedly leaves his shared cell once a day for one

hour. In a letter sent last week, Gross asked President Obama to personally help secure his release.

The Cuban government has indicated that it wants the United States to allow the return to Cuba of five spies in prison or on probation in the U.S. in return for negotiations on Gross.

Jewish and faith groups, and Gross' wife, Judy, demonstrated on behalf of Gross last week at Lafayette Park outside the White House along with officials from the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington.

LETTER

Re: Netanyahu and Mandela

This past week added fuel to the fire that lovers of Israel the world over are hard pressed to extinguish.

(Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu's decision to not attend the funeral of Nelson Mandela was supposedly based on financial and security considerations.

Whether those flimsy excuses hold water or not, or if his decision was really based on more substantial political matters, it is not the issue at hand. Certainly, the relationship between South Africa and Israel has been shaky, and Mandela was not at times on the same page as the

leaders of Israel (but then, who is?).

But what was on the table was the opportunity for Netanyahu to honor the life of a world leader of peaceful, nonviolent protest, a man who stood for racial equality and who dedicated his life to the defeat of prejudice and racism.

Mandela was a Moses for our times. Here was Netanyahu's opportunity to join the rest of the world in mourning his passing by attending the service that honored the life of this great man.

And, of course, he did not go. It seems as if Bibi's main ob-

jective is to drive the wedge between world opinion and Israel deeper each week. The boycotts grow more substantial. Impatience with the continued building in the occupied territories becomes more urgent.

Netanyahu could have been not only the Prime Minister of Israel, but also a leader of the Jewish people, in honoring the life of Nelson Mandela.

He chose not to. And I continue to be stuck with him as one of the more visible representatives of my people to the rest of the world.

Louis D. Gitlin
Providence

ONLINE COMMENTS

Re: Biking across America with a purpose (Dec. 6)

Ilan, You were and are such an inspiration for me. Thanks for sharing this beautiful reflection. Making every day count and being mindful of the ways in which we impact our world are the greatest gifts we can all take away from Summer 2013.

Elizabeth Goldstein

Ilan, Your friends at Columbus Torah Academy are so proud of your accomplishments and your continuing commitment to Torah traditions and ethical values. Keep up the great work!

Zvi Kahn

Ilan, we're proud that you did a lot of your growing up in Rhode Island when your father, Rabbi Mitchell Levine, was rabbi at Beth Shalom and your mother, Alison Rose, taught at URI and was chair of the editorial board of the Jewish Voice. Yashar Koach!

Eleanor Lewis

Editor's note: Eleanor Lewis is a member of the

editorial board of The Jewish Voice. Beautifully written. Ilan, you made the trip so special.

Kimberly Burnham

Re: She runs to help others (Dec. 6)

Enjoyed reading about Erica Denhoff and her many accomplishments! She epitomizes selfless devotion to others and her community!

Sheila Silverman Gartenberg

Super article about a super kid!

Carol R. Brooklyn

Erica you did inspire me to increase my exercise after my heart attack. I am one person that your efforts have affected and I am certain there are many others! I can see your grandfather Abramson in you and I didn't know your grandfather Denhoff but I'm sure he is with you every step of the way!

Jonathan Meredith

Connect to your community through Chai Mitzvah

Rabbi Karp to facilitate a nine-part course at the Alliance JCC

BY IRINA MISSIURO

IMissiuoro@jewishalliancერი.org

Rabbi Naftali Karp knows how to incorporate fun and food into a meaningful experience by bringing snacks to any study session he leads. Be it Partners in Torah, the Sunday night program he runs with Project *Shoresh*; Lunch and Learn, the Tuesday class he offers at the Alliance JCC; or the Jewish Student Union class he teaches at Classical High School, it will involve some freshly baked Kosher pizza (he even invested in delivery-style thermal envelopes that keep it hot) or an equally tantalizing indulgence.

Karp's mission is to bring Judaism to those who want to study it, but haven't been able to. Like Muhammad, he goes to the mountain. Since Karp is not affiliated with any temple, this "Roaming Rabbi," as Wendy Joering, Community Concierge and Synagogue Liaison, calls him, makes Judaism meaningful to Jews, independent of their geographical or philosophical position. In addition to providing people with food, he matches his students up with peers and mentors, facilitating not only the discussion, but also the participants' connection to a community of like-minded people.

Often, people in his classes become fast friends and learning partners outside of school.

For example, Karp says of the students in his Partners in Torah class, "They go to each other's houses all the time and study." Project *Shoresh*, which he directs, supports this fully; after all, the name of the organization stands for "roots" or "grassroots." Even if people don't belong to a synagogue, they share the main principles of Judaism that make Karp's classes relevant for everyone. He, himself, is an example of someone who is an unorthodox learner – Karp's LinkedIn profile reads, "Everything I needed to know about Judaism I did NOT learn in Hebrew School."

Starting in January, he joins the facilitators at Temple Beth-El, Temple Emanu-El and Congregation Beth Shalom in leading a Chai Mitzvah class. Karp will lead two separate sessions of a nine-part course that will be held at the Alliance JCC on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at noon. The two tenets of the organization include building a Jewish community and deeply engaging in the religion. Chai Mitzvah achieves these goals through five steps: learning about Jewish heritage (e.g., reading Jewish literature, taking a class in Hebrew); participating in a new ritual (e.g., Jewish meditation, lighting Shabbat candles); engaging in social action with a Jewish flavor (e.g., volunteering at a shel-

ter, visiting the sick); joining a community discussion; and celebrating your achievement (e.g., traveling to Israel, sponsoring a Kiddush at a synagogue).

Other than the steps, nothing about the program is regimented – the facilitator adapts the curriculum to the wants and needs of the students. Participants choose all the specifics, such as their object of study and their level of commitment, that fall into the general categories above. The beauty and strength of Chai Mitzvah depends on the negative prefixes – the organization provides an *in*-expensive way to enhance Judaism; it's an *in*-dependent, *un*-affiliated and *non*-denominational 501(c)(3) corporation. Community leaders, coordinators and educators allow it to succeed.

In some ways, Chai Mitzvah is like chocolate – it's just as rewarding and it doesn't judge. One doesn't have to be deeply religious to participate. In fact, those who wish to grow their Judaism are encouraged to reconnect with the texts and values they've enjoyed in the past. Individuals who are already profoundly involved in the social and the scholarly sides of Judaism can expand their studies or deepen practiced rituals connected to the religion.

The organization believes that personal commitments need to be supplemented

with group learning, which is strongly supported. Joering, who encouraged Karp to get involved, says, "It's nice to sit with other people who are not just like me." But isn't the point to socialize with individuals on the same wavelength as you are? She clarifies, "At the core, we are all the same – we all wish to carry on the Jewish legacy." People who are unable to attend social events or synagogue can still become involved – Chai Mitzvah will help them organize a group near or even at their place of residence.

So what would one encounter at a one- to one-and-a-half-hour learning session? Participants might read a short text on various topics that include *tzedakah*, interpersonal relationships, environment and gratitude. They might listen to their facilitator regale them with some fascinating and novel aspect of Judaism with which they weren't familiar. Mostly, they will engage in the Socratic method of learning – through discussion. Until the class starts, it's difficult to predict its direction because of the highly flexible nature of the curriculum. Karp says, "Ninety percent of the preparation is knowing your audience. Chai Mitzvah is not just a class. It's about people picking something that they want to personally grow in. The class will complement that."

Karp is looking forward to the challenge of spontaneous learning. He likes the fact that his Monday class could take on a completely different format from his Tuesday class; after all, the course is versatile in nature – each group can have its individual flavor. Another reason he is excited about the role of a facilitator is the opportunity to learn. He says that he is constantly finding out something new while preparing to teach the material.

Karp calls the class "a crash course in Judaism" and "a way for people to meet other like-minded people they'd otherwise not meet." His Project *Shoresh* website echoes the sentiment of Chai Mitzvah, "Let's connect, on whatever level we can, on whatever level we are capable, and let's laugh on the way – together." So connect with one another and with this gourmet Rabbi. Joering is optimistic that the program will inspire more community growth. She says, "I'm hoping this will be the start of groups continuing to learn together because they want to."

For more information, contact Wendy Joering (wjoering@jewishalliancერი.org), Jewish Alliance Community Concierge and Synagogue Liaison, at 421-4111, ext. 169.

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The boys' choir singing a variety of Hanukkah songs



PHOTOS | NADAV MINKIN

Gittel Golden, second from left, showing the residents of Epoch how to spin the dreidel upside down.

Hanukkah at EPOCH

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN
anorman@jewishhalliancieri.org

On Sunday, Dec 1, Congregation Sha'arei Tefilla held a Hanukkah party for the residents of EPOCH. They brought *sufganiyot* and dreidels, ate and gambled, and had a wonderful time with the residents. A boys' choir sang Hanukkah songs.

Highlands on East Side warms others

"Mittens Party" to be followed by "Shoes & Sox Party"

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN
anorman@jewishhalliancieri.org

The Highlands on the East Side, an assisted living and memory care community located at 101 Highland Ave., Providence, presented more than 750 mittens, hats, scarves, gloves and coats to aid the homeless in Rhode Island at their "Mittens Party" held December 5. The presentation was made to the Loaves & Fishes Mission for distribution to state shelters.

The presentation was made possible through the generous efforts of Highlands' residents, staff, family members and friends who knitted, purchased and donated the items throughout November. Resident Lorraine Kaplan said, "We started with the idea of knitted mittens and hats and then it became so much more. Everyone here believed in the project and a lot of less fortunate people will stay warm."

When Mission representative, Mary Fitzgerald, was brought to tears mentioning the special need for shoes and socks, residents and staff vowed to mount a January drive to collect the needed footwear.

Contributions of new or gently worn adult and children's shoes, boots, sneakers and socks can be made at The Highlands now through January for distribution to homeless shelters and agencies at a special "Shoes & Sox Party" Thursday,



HEATHER TOMPKINS

Lorraine Kaplan, left, and Irma Friedlander

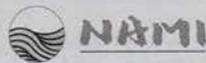
February 13, at 2 p.m.

"Everything donated came from the heart. We have some talented and generous souls here. Our families and friends contributed bushels of cold-weather clothing, too. I'm confident our shoes and socks project will be just as successful," added resident Irma Friedlander.

For every donated pair, each donor will receive a raffle ticket for prizes and an invitation to attend the party catered by The Highlands' kitchen staff.

For more information, contact Heather Tompkins at 654-5259 or htopkins@hallkeen.com.

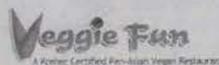
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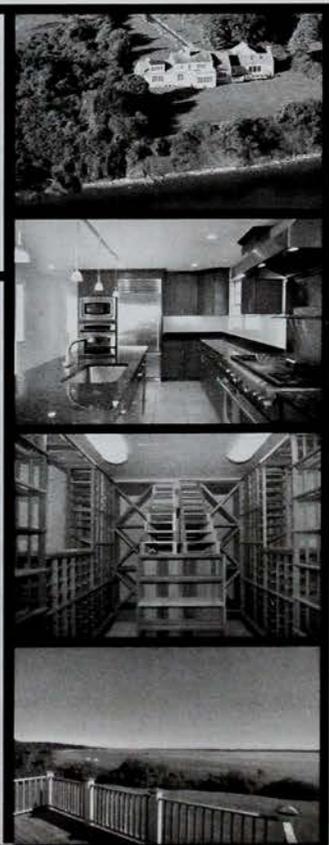


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PHOTOS | LAURA BEN-DAVID

Three feet of snow in Neve Daniel, outside of Jerusalem

FROM PAGE 1 **SNOW**

rael is treated to a few flakes of snow. This year, however, we got a snowstorm that rivaled some of the worst that I experienced while growing up in Rhode Island.

It was difficult to miss news about the impending storm. People posted about it all over social media. Like an oncoming wave, friends in communities just outside of Jerusalem began making regular updates – “Flakes of snow!” and “It’s starting to accumulate!” Whatever they posted, soon began taking place in Jerusalem. As the snow rose higher and higher, there was even foreshadowing that created an

ominous anticipation – “The power just went out.”

For Israelis, the snow was a unique treat. Many people took to the streets, going for casual strolls and photographing their children in the snow. A friend of mine said that she overheard one child ask her mother, “How do you make a snowball?” The mother replied, “The same way you make a matzo ball.”

On the morning of Friday the 13th, I awoke to see more snow and more updates on social media – stranded motorists were concerned that they wouldn’t make it home to their families before Shabbat and areas just outside of Jerusalem experienced a minor earthquake! On top of that, Friday

marked the 10th of Tevet – the Jewish fast day commemorating Nebuchadnezzar’s siege of Jerusalem. Could that day possibly get any crazier? The answer, we learned, was “yes.”

To observant Jews, much of Friday is dedicated to Shabbat preparation. Among other things, that means making sure that all of the food is bought and cooked prior to the start of Shabbat, and lights we need are left on for the duration of Shabbat. Among my roommates and me, we share several years worth of practice in making sure that everything is ready in time for Shabbat. That’s is, we’re proficient in that pre-Shabbat time management when supermarkets are open and we

have electricity.

At noon on Friday, the power went out. We began strategizing. How would we cook the chicken without an electric oven? In the end, we fried it on the stove. The soup in a crockpot? Time to transfer it to a regular pot and leave it on the stove. If power was restored after Shabbat began, we wouldn’t be allowed to turn our own lights on. Therefore, we went around the apartment flipping the light switches of those we would want on if and when the power was restored.

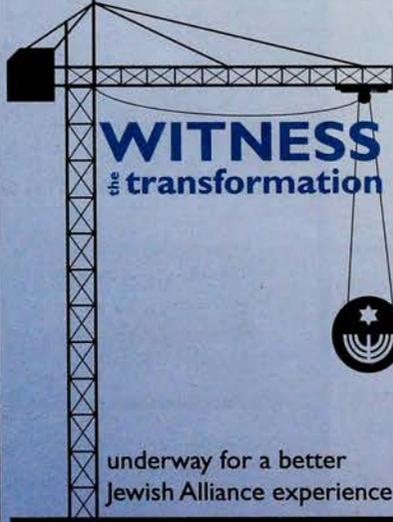
Wait! Now we’re hearing that Jerusalem’s eruv – the arti-

so all steps to restore power could and should be taken, even on Shabbat.

Shabbat began and still no power. We *davened* (prayed) and ate dinner by candlelight. Towards the end of our dinner, around 7 p.m., the power was finally restored. We raised our glasses and gave a *l’chaim!* (toast) in honor of the hard workers of the electric company that worked to restore our power.

Whether observant or not, those few hours without power were unique. Some might think that, as observant Jews, we made extenuating circum-





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cial boundary that allows us to carry things on Shabbat – is down? Time to bring over the food we would normally carry to our hosts on Shabbat, and figure out what to do about our house key so we can lock up our apartment when not at home.

Another concern as observant Jews is that we aren’t allowed to benefit from another Jew doing something on Shabbat that we wouldn’t do ourselves. As the majority of the population is Jewish, we needed to assume that the power was being fixed by Jews. How would we be affected if the electricity was fixed after Shabbat began? Prior to Shabbat, the rabbi of Jerusalem’s municipality declared the city in a state of emergency. People could legitimately freeze to death if power wasn’t restored,

stances more complicated than they needed to be. Putting just a little thought into the situation allowed us to get through the blizzard safely and comfortably, while still operating within our religious comfort zones. As a result, Israel’s blizzard of 2013 was a unique and memorable Shabbat experience for everyone.

Daniel Stieglitz, a Providence native, made aliyah in 2007. He holds a master’s degree in creative writing from Bar Ilan University, and lives and works in Jerusalem. His short story, “Haven,” was recently published in FictionMagazines.com’s online magazine, eFiction. Contact him at dstieglitz@gmail.com.

Apple-themed delicacies

BY IRINA MISSIURO

Imissiuoro@jewishhallianceni.org

According to legend, Marina Tsvetaeva, the famous Russian poetess, and her sister Anastasia, liked to host literary evenings and serve this dessert. Make this simple but delicious cake and pretend you're gallivanting with the intelligentsia at the sisters' house in Tarusa, Russia.

Tsvetaeva Sisters Apple Cake

INGREDIENTS

3 large Granny Smith apples

DOUGH

2/3 cup flour
3 ounces sour cream
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 stick unsalted butter (8 tablespoons)

CRÈME (TOPPING)

1 cup sour cream
1 cup sugar
1 egg
1 tablespoon flour

PROCESS

Heat oven to 375° F.
Combine flour, sour cream and melted butter. Slightly butter and flour a round 9-inch pan. Press the dough onto the bottom and the edges. Spread peeled, thinly cut slices of apples on top. If desired, shake some cinnamon onto the apples.
Use a mixer to combine sour cream, sugar, egg and flour.
Pour the crème on top of the apples. Bake for about 50 minutes.



Tsvetaeva Sisters Apple Cake

Russian Apple Caramel Cake

If you like Crème Brûlée, you'll love this dessert.

CARAMEL SYRUP

Pour 4 tablespoons of water into a saucepan.

Add 5 1/2 ounces of sugar (about 10 tablespoons).

Leave on medium flame until the sugar starts getting dark.

Pour 1 cup cream into the hot caramel and change the flame to low, stirring until all is combined well. Cool.

Add 2 eggs, mix.

Add 1 teaspoon of flour and mix.

DOUGH

Make the dough out of 1 cup flour and 4 ounces cut-up unsalted butter. Roll it out and press into a round pan.

FILLING

Peel 4 apples, cut into eighths. Lay apples onto the dough in concentric circles.

PROCESS

Place the cake into an oven, preheated to 400° F, for 20 minutes.

Take it out of the oven and pour the syrup on top of the cake.

Lower the temperature to 300° F and bake the cake for 40 more minutes.

Chill before cutting.

Russian Mini Pancakes

These pancakes are extremely easy to make and children love them.

INGREDIENTS

1 cup sour cream
1 cup flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
2 tablespoons sugar
a pinch of salt
2 large eggs (beaten)
2 tablespoons unsalted butter

(melted)
1 shredded apple (peeled)

METHOD

Combine all the ingredients. Using a soup spoon, ladle circles of batter onto a large, oiled and heated frying pan. Make sure to space the pancakes far apart because they will grow in size. Flip once you see bubbles in the batter.

Serve with jam.



Oladi, Irina's children's favorite pancakes

Good eating from EPOCH

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN

anorman@jewishhallianceni.org

Chef Tom Michalski from EPOCH on the East Side shares his tasty recipe.

Eggnog crème brûlée

INGREDIENTS

15 eggs: 5 whole eggs, 10 egg yolks

8 ounces granulated sugar

24 ounces eggnog - substitute whole milk for a traditional crème brûlée

24 ounces light cream

1 vanilla bean

METHOD

Preheat oven to 300° F. Mix together eggnog, cream, sugar, and vanilla bean in a pot. Heat on the stove. Whisk together eggs and egg yolks. Temper in the cream mixture. Strain through a mesh sieve.

Place ramekins in a large cake pan. Pour custard evenly into ramekins. Pour hot water into the pan, enough to come halfway up the ramekins. Place pan in the oven and bake for 20 to 30 minutes or until firm. Let cool completely before wrapping. Keeps three days.



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Vodka Latkes



Barry Dolinger



David Arndt, Laura Isaacs, Becca Laptook and Jen Arndt

Vodka Latke event a success

(401j) celebrates Hanukkah and a new community foundation

BY IRINA MISSIURO
 imissiuoro@jewishalliancერი.org

Six months ago, Rabbi Elan Babchuck, of Temple Emanu-El, Erin Moseley, Director of Arts and Culture and Next Generation Engagement at the Jewish Alliance, Rabbi Barry Dolinger, of Congregation Beth Sholom, and Rabbi Sarah Mack, of Temple Beth-El, saw an opportunity to create a collaboration that would invest in community. With a long-term vision in mind, they came together and devised a way to knock down the barriers separating the four institutions and create a vision that encompasses all of them.

What they concocted was (401j), a community without borders, where young people (20s to 40s) would be able to grow, connect, learn, and form lasting friendships. Members can choose a cluster they'd like to participate in – current options include Rosh *Hodesh*, Got Shabbat, and *D'var* in the bar – or get involved in other social, cultural, educational and advocacy programs.

The name signifies the local aspect, the Judaic element and the investment goal – individuals invest in their togetherness, in their religion, in their small corner of the world. Rabbi Babchuck shared that they came

up with the moniker during a brainstorming session in his living room with a representative group of community members while eating pizza. Some are inspired by falling apples – some by more caloric foods. So far, the premise is working – more and more young Jews are saying that they want to be part of (401j), whose email list already contains 500 members.

Their enthusiasm for the launch of this community organization was evident during (401j)'s first large-scale event. On Tuesday, December 3, young people showed up at Vodka Latke to celebrate Hanukkah and the launch of (401j)

at the Grange, a hip vegetarian restaurant in Providence. Continuing with the tradition of delicious foods, everyone sampled a variety of latkes, mingled and laughed. Okay, alcohol was involved too – it was necessary for the rhyme in the event's title. Hillary Schulman, Development Associate at the Jewish Alliance, said, "It's great that everyone could come together." Andrew Shuster joked, "Who knew there were so many Jews in Rhode Island?"

Moshe Berman was excited to meet new Jewish professionals with whom to socialize outside of his synagogue. He said, "It's great to have so many people

from different sectors of the community." Matan Graff, Israeli emissary, also appreciated the opportunity to get to know people his age who are part of the community. "I think it's important that everyone showed up." Meital Cafri, Advancement and Membership Coordinator at Temple Emanu-El, was glad to see many new faces. She said, "This has been a great collaboration between the three synagogues and the Alliance." For Cafri, being Jewish "is more than just going to the temple. It's creating a spiritual and cultural community." Elana



Matan Graff and Aaron Guttin



Elan Babchuck, Sarah Mack and Judy Seplowin

FROM PAGE 16 (401)j

Chassen, Alliance Education and Planning Associate, was ecstatic to see the event happen after all the planning. "It's really heartwarming!"

Rabbi Dolinger was similarly impressed with the event and "most excited" about (401)j. He explained that the organization is unique in the sense that it doesn't involve denominations. "It's about young Jewish com-

munity leaders coming together to create their own brand of Judaism that enhances people's lives." Dolinger pointed out that (401)j does not consist of separate organizations that are trying to sustain themselves – in this community, it's one for all and all for one. He brought up the Maccabees, who played with the status quo, and compared them to young people

who are not interested in the Judaism that doesn't reflect their values. Dolinger roots for the Judaism that's not forced, one that presents meaningful socialization through which Jews could advance their goals together. He says, "I'm thrilled to be a part of it."

Toward the end of the event, Rabbi Babchuck gave a *D'var Torah*. He said that the miracle of Hanukkah was – per the Book of Maccabees – a military victory. Drawing a parallel,

he suggested that, because the Maccabees were outnumbered

"I'm thrilled to be a part of it."

ten to one, they had to be smarter and more collaborative than their foes. He felt that we, too, are fighting a war – one against

isolation. Babchuck pointed out that, just because we now have various social media platforms, we do not have the world at our fingertips, as we might think. We can have 5,000 Facebook friends and still go to bed lonelier than ever before. Seeing before him the evidence of (401)j's successful launch event, Babchuck closed by sharing that – at least for one night of this ongoing battle – (401)j won.

Program Spotlight:

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L'DOR VA-DOR

Editor's note: Due to you, our wonderful readers, we received a tremendous number of beautiful multi-generational family stories and photos. We have included as many as possible in this issue and will include the remainder (and any late arrivals) in our January 3 issue. The Jewish Voice thanks you for your understanding.



Helen Vine, center, is shown here with daughter Carolyn Greene, granddaughter Perri Easton, and great granddaughter Kylie Easton.



Dorothy Norman, center, is shown here in 2003 with son, David, grandson Aron, granddaughter Perri Easton and great granddaughter Kylie Easton.



Amy Abramson-Denhoff, left, Harry Abramson, Chase Denhoff, Libby Abramson, Joseph Denhoff and Erica Denhoff



Libby Abramson shows off the yellow sweater.



Grandson Chase wearing the yellow sweater

The Yellow Sweater

BY AMY ABRAMSON-DENHOFF
Special to The Jewish Voice

65 years ago, Libby Abramson knit a yellow sweater and hat for her and Dr. Harry Abramson's first child to wear on the way home from the hospital after she was born. Two years later, their second born daughter wore the same sweat-

er and four years later, their third daughter wore it home from the hospital after birth. Thirty-eight years later, Libby and Harry's first grandchild wore the same sweater home from Women and Infants Hospital and, later, three more grandchildren wore the sweater home after being born. After each child wore it, the sweater was given back to

Libby for safekeeping. Above is a photo of Libby holding the sweater. She even has the pattern saved. Libby learned to knit from her mother, Rose. Libby taught her three daughters and granddaughter to knit. Hopefully, this sweater will be worn by Libby and Harry's great grandchildren!

A Perspective on Caregiving

BY BARBARA GORDON, LICSW

Special to The Jewish Voice

So many members of our community manage significant caregiver responsibilities. Even if you don't think of yourself as a caregiver, if you have a child with medical problems or behavioral, learning, or mental health issues, or if you have a parent, spouse, or other family member or friend whose well-being depends on your regular help, then you are a caregiver. No one's experience is identical, but there are some pieces of advice that many caregivers find helpful as they juggle the demands on their time and emotions that come with looking after others.

It's easy in the midst of rushing and worrying and being pulled in many directions to lose your sense of perspective – but it's that very sense that will help you prioritize your time and energy to focus on what really matters. It will also help you remember that, given all you have on your plate, you're doing the best you can. It's easy to berate yourself for not doing all you think you should do, or to



be hard on yourself for not doing it as perfectly as you think you should; stepping back to view it all in context can help you cut yourself some slack. I recommend imagining someone else juggling all you do – would you judge her harshly if she couldn't do it all, or if some of the many things she did were just "good enough?" Or, rather, would you marvel at how she keeps so many balls in the air and only drops the few she does?

You might also try taking a

few minutes each day to ask if each item on your "to do" list is something that has to be done. Will not doing it have a truly lasting impact on someone? Some tasks might remain difficult to prioritize – like visiting your mother in the nursing home versus watching one of your daughter's soccer games – but others, like baking cupcakes for your son's class, might lose their urgency and free up at least a little of your precious time and energy.

Perhaps the most difficult

part of keeping perspective is that it often requires accepting realities that may feel deeply unacceptable. As understandable as it is, trying to fix the unfixable – our child's chronic medical condition, our father's dementia, our spouse's need for 24/7 skilled nursing care – is futile and emotionally draining. I know it is much easier said than done, but with time, support and strength, accepting a painful reality is possible. Doing so can help you regain your sense of perspective, focus your time and emotional energy on what you can do for your loved one, and choose more wisely which demands on your time and emotions to juggle. Remember, given your realities, the best you can do is the best you can do.

Studies have shown that simply sharing the burden with others in the same situation

can help provide strength and energy to go on. Taking the

"Remember, given your realities, the best you can do is the best you can do."

time to find supports is difficult, but necessary. Jewish Family Service is here to provide resources, emotional support and practical guidance for the caregivers in our community.



Barbara Gordon (Barbara@jfsri.org) is a licensed independent clinical social worker with Jewish Family Service and provides counseling and case management to individuals and families. She can be reached at 331-1244.



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1947, Center Parent Association

Archival image courtesy of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association.



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Four bam? Four crack? Four dot? No ...

Four generations of Mah-Jongg players

BY WENDY L. JOERING

As a child, I remember falling asleep one night each week to the rhythmic sounds of clinking tiles and ladies laughing and the smell of yummy baked goods. They were older to me – my mom's age – which is younger than I am now! My mom has had her weekly Mah-Jongg group and has played for as long as I can remember. And my grandmother, my mother's mother, has played for as long as my mother can remember.

About five years ago, a bunch of my friends and I decided to learn how to play. We sat in my good friend Randi's kitchen in Providence. It was about 8:30 on a Monday night. We all thought – how hard could this be? – we'll teach ourselves. That theory did not last very long. About an hour into it, I was on the phone with my grandmother, who lived in New York at the time; my friend Lauri was on the phone with her mother, who also lived in New York; and Randi was on the phone with her mother-in-law Francine in Cranston. After about an hour of this, Francine said, "I'm coming over. I'll be there in 20 minutes." We had a blast and, over the next few months, we all learned how to play.

Not everyone in that group continued to play, but my passion remained and I play as often as I can with an amazing group of women at my synagogue. So, three generations playing – how wonderful. My mother moved to Rhode Island within the last year and plays weekly with a fabulous group of women who have been playing together for about 10 years – once in a while I play with them too! They have welcomed her and included her as if she has been with them from day one! My grandmother has since moved from New York to Warwick and she plays with her friends three times a week.

I do not get to play as much as I would like, but when the educational director of our synagogue asked if I wanted to volunteer my time Sunday mornings to teach the 4th and 5th graders how to play, I was thrilled! My friend Lisa and I started teaching last October and my daughter Zoey is in the class. I think the kids picked up the game a lot faster than



WENDY JOERING
Zoey Joering, left, great grandmother Ruth Ackerman, Wendy Joering, grandmother Rhonda White, Eva Joering

the moms did five years ago. My younger daughter Eva has now expressed an interest in this longtime traditional Jewish pastime and I now can say that my family has four generations of Mah-Jongg players – pretty fabulous.

Wendy L. Joering (wjoering@jewishallianceri.org) is Community Concierge & Synagogue Liaison for The Jewish Alliance.

Editor's notes: Although many variants exist, "Mah-Jongg" is the trademarked name of the game. It is of Chinese origin, usually played by four people, using 144 tiles. The tiles have graphic symbols, not unlike suits in English playing cards and players draw and discard tiles until a winning "hand" is completed.

The Jewish Voice interviewed Zoey Joering, a 10-year-old 4th-grader, the youngest Mah-Jongg player in the group. Excerpts follow:

Q. How's it going – learning to play Mah-Jongg?

A. I'm just learning how to play, but I'm looking forward to playing with my mother, Grandma Rhonda and my Nana Ruthie.

Q. What are the lessons like?

A. I've learned all the things I need to know to make my hands.

Q. What do you think about all four generations playing Mah-Jongg?

A. The best thing is that it will be fun to all be together.



JUDI HAY
Four generations: Judi Hay, grandmother, Marc Robinson, dad, Avery Robinson, Lillian Metz, great grandmother

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN
anorman@jewishallianceri.org

The Jewish Voice put out a call to the community asking for stories describing family heroes. Adam Tilove, head of school at the Jewish Community Day School, asked his students to respond. Excerpts of their family hero stories follow:

Ellora Woods, 9 - I was getting on a chairlift when I stumbled and fell (already 40 feet in the air). I grabbed my cousin's poles and my grandpa grabbed me. I spent the rest of the day in the lodge drinking hot coco and thinking about how brave my grandpa had been. All in all, I am very lucky to have him in my life.

Tomer Raz, 9 - I look up to my parents for many reasons.

They have raised me for the past nine years and they have never forgotten me. Meaning

almost everything they do is for me, my brother or my sister. This is one reason that they have earned the title of a hero.

They tell stories from when they were still kids like us. When terrible things happened when they were little, they tell that stuff to us. It makes a great laugh, like when someone broke an arm and then they ran to the hospital.

My parents are very friendly and humorous. They rarely fight and that makes anywhere that we go a friendly environment. They stay calm when we do something wrong but they make sure to tell us.

My parents are almost always willing to do things with us that we want. Spending time with them is one of the most fun things to do.

Tamar Well, 10 - I admire my

Family heroes

parents for many reasons. First of all, they work hard at their jobs but still manage to be amazing parents. They spend a lot of time with my brothers and me, and still get all of their work done.

Second, they have gone through hard times, and they have overcome their troubles and succeeded. Third, they give to a lot of charities. Finally, they are just great people in so many ways! They give charity, are kind, loving, cheery, caring, funny and amazing. When I grow up, I want to follow in their footsteps and be as great a parent to my children as they have been to me!

Abby Tyrrell, 9 - My hero is my soccer coach for many reasons. One reason is he took 10 girls and made them into a team that works together and is as strong as any boys' team. He taught

us how to look up and yell each other's names. He also believes that girls are good athletes and that is inspiring to all girls. My last reason is that he is a kind person who makes soccer fun. I have improved so much and I look forward to playing for him. He is my hero.

Jordan Woda, 9 1/2 - My hero is my younger brother Elias. I do not know what I would do without a sibling. Sometimes in life I get frustrated with him, but I love him no matter what. Without him it would be a lonely life because in life, having a child about your age to play with is the best thing of all.

First, he helps me when I'm sick. When I need something that I can't get or even when I don't ask him to do something for me, he does it anyways. He keeps me company when I am feeling un-

der the weather.

Next, he plays with me. We play Wii, Legos, and sometimes I read him a book. We do many things together. All in all, my brother is my hero for several reasons.

Max Schwartz, 10 - My family hero is my Nanny because she was always there for me. She would always ask me if I was alright and if I needed something and that made her a good friend and a good relative. She might have been my sister's hero, too.

My Nanny died when I was a little boy. I was very sad to hear what had happened. She died in her sleep but I don't know what she died from. She was the best Nanny I could ever have.

Micah Levanos, 10 1/2 - My dad is my family hero. My dad is

HEROES | 29

When a loved one has dementia

Lessons to be learned from a caregiver

BY RUTH JAFFA ALBERT
Special to The Jewish Voice

I am not a medical professional, nor do I have expert knowledge of the causes of, or treatments for, any disease which insidiously robs its victim of memory, cognition and the ability to perform everyday activities. I am aware that there are many types of dementia - the one most frequently referred to is Alzheimer's - and each type manifests itself differently from one individual to another. I can only discuss my own experience in caring for my late husband. I hope through sharing what I have learned during our "long goodbye," I can be a source of help to other caregivers.

When we retired, we made our way to our new home in Naples, Florida. In the months before our move, my husband, at age 75, was starting to be forgetful. I attributed it to the aging process. Once in Florida, however, he had trouble orienting to our new environment, especially with respect to directionality. He frequently became confused whenever we were on the road. When he relinquished the car keys to me, I breathed a sigh of relief; as time went on, he manifested other misperceptions and I became increasingly worried.

We enjoyed socializing in our new retirement community and in our new synagogue. He was outgoing, jovial and well liked. At first, I could take him anywhere: to meetings, concerts, lectures, or social events, and no one suspected that he was gradually losing his awareness of the world around him. He came to depend on me for all decision making, yet happily went along with all plans.

He was fond of our doctor, and cheerfully greeted him with "Hello Doctor, how are you?" When I first reported examples of my husband's cognitive diffi-



Ruth Jaffa Albert

culties, the doctor thought some changes in medication were needed and prescribed accordingly, but problems escalated. If a trained accountant can no longer balance a checkbook or calculate a gratuity, and an amateur cartoonist cannot manipulate a pencil, there is reason for suspicion. Then came diagnoses of both Parkinson's disease and multi-infarct dementia. His neurologist urged me to join the local Alzheimer's Support Group and this was the beginning of my lessons in caregiving.

The first lesson

It is not the patient's symptoms, but the caregiver's endurance level which determines when to place the patient in a facility.

I watched as the list of his incapacities grew: falling at night, necessitating 911 calls to lift him from the floor back to bed; turning on the stove or a faucet and forgetting to turn them off; wandering away from home and into neighboring homes, disrobing in a public restroom. I could not leave him alone, even to mail a letter. For his own safety and my peace of mind, I moved him to his first nursing home.

A great weight had been lifted from my shoulders, but I was soon to learn a second lesson:

Every healthcare resident needs an advocate. The nursing home, recommended by his neurologist for its rehab program and proximity to my home, fell short of adequate patient care and was ill-equipped to deal with dementia. During my daily visits, I observed a multitude of mistakes: a nurse mistakenly administered his roommate's medicine to my husband; the kitchen staff failed to observe his posted dietary needs, an aide forgot to bring him to the dining room at meal time. After six months of my filing complaints, came the last straw: the staff neglected to notice that he was ill with a fever. I called his obvious symptoms to the attention of the charge nurse who was writing at

"Every healthcare resident needs an advocate."

her desk while my husband was sitting nearby in plain view.

I transferred him to another well-recommended nursing home. Although far from my home, it included a secure memory unit. I moved closer to the facility, saving me a 45-minute commute. The unit director was an excellent staff educator, teaching appropriate activities and modeling effective ways to communicate with patients. But the unit director retired and the nursing home appointed a young charge nurse, adding the administration of the memory unit to her existing responsibilities. Patient care went downhill. My husband suffered two falls, one attributable to staff negligence by not watching while he navigated a garden cement walk with one side of his walker in the garden. He fell against a tree, lacer-

ating his ear. Instead of sending him to the hospital for suturing, the head nurse closed the wound with adhesive strips and it soon became infected. His escalating arthritis confined him to a wheelchair, necessitating moving him to another wing.

Even more advocacy was needed here. There was much miscommunication between departments. I was constantly calling them to the attention of administrators. When the physical therapist wrote that his wheelchair was to be tipped slightly backwards so that he would not fall and that he should be seated near the nurse's station, I found him seated upright and alone in his room. The kitchen staff's disregard for his food allergies persisted and I found it necessary to be with him at every meal, correcting errors in what he was served and finally feeding him myself. Support group members reported similar experiences at different nursing homes, so transferring him to another facility was not a viable alternative. Hence, the importance of being there.

I now live at Tamarisk, where the Renaissance memory unit is the exact opposite. How I wish the same level of care had been available to my husband!

Third lesson

Do not deny what the patient perceives as his reality. It took a while for me to internalize this lesson. After much practice, I learned to acknowledge that my husband and I were living in two different worlds. Once, he complained that a buffalo was running around his room. I promised to have a maintenance man set his buffalo trap and the animal never "reappeared." Another time, he declared that he was happy to be the mayor of such a beautiful city and I responded that he made the best mayor Na-

ples ever had. He beamed with pride. This way we didn't argue and we could enjoy each other's company.

I needed a different approach when his fantasies were frightening and I had to impose my own reality. Once, when he was in the hospital and under the influence of morphine, he screamed that a gang of little men was about to murder him. I comforted him by asking, "Why would anyone want to murder such a nice man?" Fortunately, his was a happy dementia. He enjoyed welcoming newcomers to his "home" and inquiring about their health and their families. It could have been much worse.

Lesson number four

Tap into the longterm memory. Through pictures and memorabilia, my husband was able to reconnect joyously with people and events from his earlier life. He never forgot how to dance and had great fun when he heard big band music. He stood up in his enclosed adult walker and, with tiny steps, moved in perfect rhythm, twirling me under his arm.

Writing about my long goodbye to a wonderful husband has brought up bittersweet memories. Despite his passing fifteen years ago, I think of him lovingly every day. Although dementia becomes the end of shared decision making and normal two-way adult conversations, sadness need not consume the caregiver. There are challenges to face and skills to learn, as well as knowing the satisfaction of having grown from the experience.

Ruth Jaffa Albert may be reached at ruthandtootsie@gmail.com.

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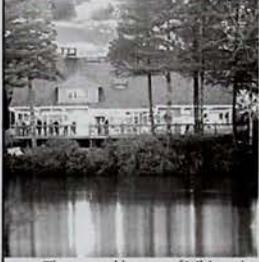


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FROM PAGE 4 **AWARD**

The Aleppo Codex, Friedman describes how he is able to solve the mystery from bits and pieces of information.

The Codex, declared the most accurate holy text by the great rabbi, teacher and philosopher Maimonides, was brought to Aleppo by Maimonides' great-great-great-grandson in the 14th century. For 600 years, it was kept in a crypt beneath Aleppo's great synagogue until anti-Jewish rioting during the War of Independence destroyed the synagogue. Fortunately, the Codex survived and, in 1948, found its way into the hands of rabbis who kept it hidden while spreading the rumor that it had burned. In 1958, it was smuggled to Turkey

and then brought to Israel with the help of the State of Israel and President Yitzhak Ben-Zvi. It was quickly discovered that the approximately 200 pages of The Five Books of Moses – the Torah itself – were missing.

In finding out what had really happened to the Codex, Friedman discovered "a tragedy of human weakness." Friedman came to the conclusion that the Codex hadn't actually been saved from the burned synagogue but had been looted by representatives of the Ben-Zvi Institute. Furthermore, the missing pages of the Codex are the result of negligence on the part of the Ben-Zvi Institute, which did not take proper care of the manuscript.

The Jewish Book Council awarded the Sami Rohr Prize to Friedman because they feel that he will continue to make significant contributions to Jewish literature. The runner-up for the prize was Sarah Bunin Benor, author of "Becoming Frum" (Rutgers University Press), a book about how one's speech patterns are influenced by their community. Both Friedman and Benor will be honored in a ceremony in Jerusalem on January 21, 2014. All the finalists will be inducted into the Sami Rohr Jewish Literary Institute during an annual gathering of Sami Rohr winners, finalists, judges and advisors.

Kiyara Leis (kiyaraleis@gmail.com), a Providence resident, is a graduate of Hampshire College.



Noted philanthropist and businessman Sami Rohr

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Remember the Past

From the archives of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

Natalie

BY GERALDINE S. FOSTER

When Warren and I first visited Israel in 1969, a highlight of our tour was a visit to the beautiful new Keneset building, then just three years old. Our guide, like all good guides, shepherded us through the history and special features of the building, one of which was a relief painting, "A Song of Praise to Jerusalem." It was affixed to the wall opposite the Prime Minister's office, Golda Meir's office at that time. He spoke of the artist Moshe Castel's original use of ground basalt mixed with sand and glue, shaped and saturated with color.

As he pointed to the engraved ancient Hebrew script and symbols, my mind wandered to the first time I had heard of Moshe Castel and his technique, the first time I had seen one of his relief paintings three years earlier.

The docent from whom I learned of Castel and his unusual technique was Natalie Percelay, the curator of Temple Emanu-El's museum. On that day in 1966, when we met, she was doing what she so enjoyed — speaking of the museum's collection of Judaica and pointing to the latest acquisition.

Fifteen years before, she had undertaken the task of building a museum collection at the behest of Rabbi Eli Bohnen. The

Rabbi had originally envisioned an area near the entrance to the synagogue where items of Judaica could be displayed.

Natalie enthusiastically embraced the idea and the work involved. It appealed to her love of beautiful things as well as devotion to her synagogue. She saw as her mission finding Jewish art and religious objects "... that would be a delight."

To increase her own knowledge, Natalie visited other museums. She spoke with dealers and artists and sought guidance from experts. She studied the subject of Judaic art and became recognized as an expert in her own right. Under her nurture, a small holiday display grew in scope and importance.

At about the same time Natalie became curator of her beloved museum, the Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE) came into being as a committee of the GJC (then the General Jewish Committee of Providence — now the Jewish Alliance). Because of her love of Jewish learning, she accepted an appointment to the first Board. Very soon, she was asked to head a committee charged with arranging a conference on Jewish education for the community. She agreed and, with Lillian Potter, chaired a program featuring workshops, exhibits and a guest speaker.



R.I. JEWISH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Natalie Percelay

According to the BJE minutes, it was very well received and successful.

And we remember the warmth of the hospitality of Natalie and her husband Abe at the many times they hosted BJE gatherings for holidays or for special meetings at their lovely home, The Carriage House.

Natalie had a beautiful singing voice, but she never really considered a career in music. Rather, she said, she preferred to sing only at family events and in Temple Emanu-El's choir, which left her time to devote to her family, community activities and education. She enrolled in the high school, where her

daughter was a student, graduated and then went on to Pembroke College (now Brown University) where she was awarded a degree in 1942.

On that day in 1966, in Temple Emanu-El, Natalie happily showed the newest acquisition entitled "Nineveh," as Ruth Page reminded me, a gift from Mrs. Alfred Pilavin and a friend in memory of Alfred Pilavin. It was, she said, an important work by an important Israeli artist whose art graced an important place in the new

Israeli Parliament building. That tie to Israel was important to her.

We remember Natalie, who left a legacy of love and enthusiasm for the beautiful in the arts and tradition.

Geraldine S. Foster is a past president of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association. To comment about this or any Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association article, email info@rijha.org.



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Diseases that afflict humans don't wait to be identified; they flow and ebb, governed by the many independent forces of nature; sooner or later, though, someone pauses, examines the blight and declares



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STANLEY M. ARONSON, M.D.

it to be distinguishable from other sicknesses; and then still others, specifically trained to explore such human singularities, provide us with a deeper understanding of the disease – including the identity of its cause.

A disease, eventually called pellagra, had afflicted humanity for millennia. The first written recognition of this illness is ascribed to an 18th

century Spanish physician, Gaspar Casal, who noted a widespread disorder afflicting rural peasants typically beginning in early spring. The first signs included redness and peeling of the skin (*mal de la rosa*), followed inevitably by nausea, soreness of the mouth, intense diarrhea, a staggering gait and confusion.

No cause was apparent, but since it tended to cluster in families, the disorder was deemed to be but one of many heredity burdens inflicted on the descendants of past sinners. Still other observers were certain that a toxin, perhaps from a fungus contaminating foods, was the culprit. And as the germ theory of disease took root in the late 19th century, a pellagra-causing bacterium was also sought.

The scientist who solved the etiologic problem of pellagra, disproved the germ or toxic origin of the disease and led the way to its prevention and eradication was an immigrant from the Hungarian town of Giralt.

Jozsef Goldberger was born in 1874 and migrated to New York City, with his family, in 1883. He attended City College of New York but became interested in the humanitarian potential of medicine; and so he transferred to the Bellevue (New York University) Hospital Medical School and was awarded his M.D. degree in 1895.

The private practice of medicine did not fulfill his needs and so he transferred to the United States Public Health Service (USPHS), working wherever typhus, typhoid and yellow fever were rampant. His assignments took him throughout the United States, Central

America and the Caribbean. And by the early 20th century, Goldberger was regarded as an authority on the transmission of communicable disease, particularly amongst inner-city populations.

In 1914, the Surgeon General of the USPHS asked Goldberger to accept the task of investigating the mysteries of pellagra – now afflicting large numbers of poor adults and children in many of the southern states – under the presumption that the pellagra was a germ-caused pestilence.

Goldberger's subsequent epidemiologic investigations convinced him of the following: that pellagra was not a communicable disorder; that while pellagra was widespread in orphanages, asylums and prisons, it never afflicted the staff employees; and that, in general, it burdened only the poorest segment of the population

And so, he undertook two clinical experiments. He injected himself, his wife and his medical colleagues with blood and saliva drawn from pellagra-victims, with no adverse effects. Goldberger then appealed to the governor of Mississippi to undertake controlled experiments on state prisoners, with volunteers promised complete pardons. By this time, Goldberger had become convinced that pellagra was not caused by something added such as a germ or fungus, but rather it was caused by the absence of something in their diets – a radical notion generally opposed by the standard bearers of medicine.

The inmate volunteers, all suffering from pellagra, were given a more varied diet and their pellagra promptly disappeared. Providing a protein-rich diet (instead of one consisting almost solely of corn products) for the orphan-asylum children also yielded miraculous cures.

Goldberger's contention that there were nutritionally-required elements in certain foods met with much resistance, as did his speculation that there might be an entire range of human ailments that were directly caused by the absence of special dietary substances.

The idea of needed vitamins had not yet arisen. And even the word "vitamin" was a word (from Latin "vita" and Greek "amin" invented in 1913 by yet another Jewish immigrant to these shores: the great chemist, Casimir Funk (1884-1969). And pellagra? American physicians now know of the disease, caused by niacin-deficiency, only from textbooks on medical history.

Stanley M. Aronson, M.D. may be reached at smamd@cox.net.

A satisfied reader says...

I look forward to reading The Jewish Voice & Herald. In the past few years, the paper has grown. There always seems to be something for everyone.

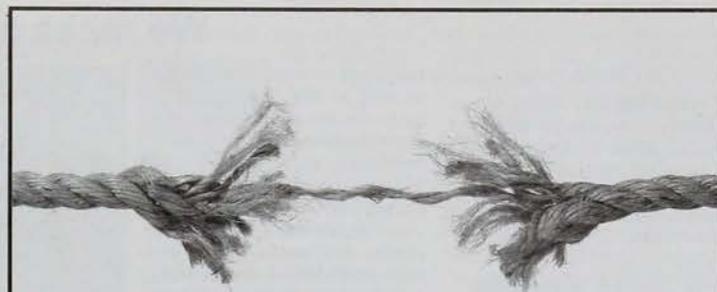
We all have our own way of reading a newspaper. I like to read about all the new babies, weddings, engagements, etc. Obituaries need to be read next. Then, I enjoy reading

Nancy Kirsch's column. She has a writer's way of bringing the reader along on her journeys. Finally I start at the beginning and leisurely read each page, one after another.

For me, Tema Gouse, Mike Fink, Josh Stein and Dr. Aronson, along with the growing number of guest columnists, round it out perfectly. It definitely takes a village to produce your publication. Keep up the good work.



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We make our own Eden

BY MIKE FINK

"Frenchman's Creek" has "gotten" to be a habit with me," in the phrase from an old song. I know the turning of the roads around the creek with the fountain and the golf-cart traffic at the curves.



SKETCHBOOK

MIKE FINK

The herons, ducks, and swans and the squirrels on benches on the short dirt paths among the smooth streets surrounding the immaculate "lawns" – if that is what they are – on the hilly course grounds.

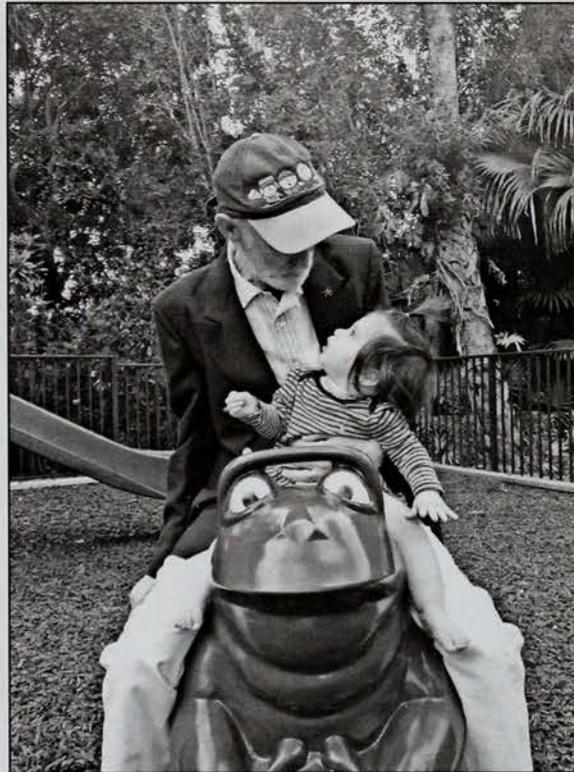
"What was here before the gated community?" I ask our kind, patient, popular and generous host. "Nothing," he answers, not accepting the nature of my rather fresh query. What I meant, of course, was whether or not there was an everglade, a watershed, a habitat for ancient and honorable creatures.

This – Eden? – is the reward for Jewish retired persons now free to live comfortably, courteously and companionably. The warmed robes you can wrap yourself in after a dip in the heated pool with tended palm trees swaying gently in the breeze, plus the exercise rou-

tines and massages available, as well as the fine cocktails, make the day go by calmly and sweetly. My endlessly indulgent dad-in-law puts up with my whimsical complaints. "I found the cups but where are the saucers?" or nonsense that like. He laughs good-naturedly at my mini-problems. "I was reading a book about Teddy Roosevelt and how he created our national parks, and I can't find it anywhere ... and last time we came, I lost my bathing suit!" I accuse. "Don't write about that," he suggests.

"The well-dressed man and woman have eyes seeing neither yesterday nor tomorrow, only the happy moments."

Each visit here to West Palm Beach is, of course, slightly different. This time we are celebrating the newest grandchild, Selma, currently nine months old and we like the daily weather clouding up and then bursting into sunbeams of delight. Great Grandpa has thoughtfully provided a fancy bottle of whisky for *l'chaims*. Frenchman's Creek has become ... what? A symbol of what we do with the American Dream. We welcome the generations and



deal devotedly with them.

A fine and elegant couple is walking hand in hand across the lobby of the club house. Directly behind them stands a handsome African woman, large, benevolent, quite beau-

tiful and imposing. The well-dressed man and woman have eyes, seeing neither yesterday nor tomorrow, only the happy moment, looked after by a 24/7 aide, guide and guardian.

Oh, I know I am a dilettante

and I am trying to ponder the guilt or innocence of my stance. My judgments are not harsh or final, only playful and yet also melancholy.

There is a "Shalom" show on the big screen in the viewing room of the residence here in Frenchman's. The hosts of the show pose the same questions I am putting out. Is the acquisition of fame and fortune the meaning of something we call "success"? The guests on the shows are cantors, memoirists, searchers for Hasidic interpretations.

"What do you want from 2014?" – who asked me that? – "Nothing that I don't already have," I answer sincerely but unimaginatively. I have everything I desire, right here and right now. I have my wife, my son and daughter here, and my baby grandchild, and her great grandpa. I have a job to go home to that I enjoy every day of the weeks ahead and, in hindsight, behind. I have memory and hope. I may brood about my guilt for things done or undone that cannot be redeemed, but I also smile over the small victories and triumphs, like finally getting the heated robe, with the help and support of great grandpa, who really stands in here.

Put it all together and what do I conclude? You figure it out, for me.

Mike Fink (mfink33@aol.com) teaches at RISD.



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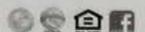
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Bernice M. "Baila" Bender, 95

SAUNDERSTOWN - Bernice M. "Baila" Bender died December 1. She was born in Providence May 18, 1918, to the late Joseph and Anna (Horowitz) Polofsky. She is survived by Edward, her husband of 62 years, beloved daughter Ann and son-in-law J. Barry Miller of Saunderstown, dear sister Sheila Polofsky of Providence, sisters-in-law Charlotte and Donna Polofsky, many nieces and nephews who called her "Auntie Gramma." She was the grandmother of Derek H. Miller.

She was predeceased by her siblings Harry, Gordon and Michael Polofsky and Alice Harris.

She was a founding member of Temple Sinai, past board member, sisterhood, senior organizer and volunteer at Miriam Hospital. She was honored as "Jewish Family of the Year," 1999. Her careers included beauty consultant for L'oreal of Paris, manager RI Blood Bank, Sullivan and Clark management recruiter, and owner Bender's Pharmacy.

Funeral services will be held Friday, December 20 at 10:30 a.m. in Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Shiva will be observed at her late residence, 142 Walmsley Lane, Saunderstown, Saturday 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Herbert L. Bloom, 87

BOYNTON BEACH, Fla. - Herbert L. Bloom, of Boynton Beach, Fla. and East Greenwich, R.I., died December 16. He was the husband of Irma (Newman) Bloom.

Born in Dorchester, Mass., he was a son of the late William F. and Etta (Ross) Bloom. He was

the brother of the late David Bloom and grandfather of the late Matthew Bloom.

He was a veteran of World War II, serving with the Seabees in Okinawa; he was a life member of the Seabees Veterans of America and a past commander of Post #696 of the Jewish War Veterans of Milton, Mass.

Besides his wife of 62 years, he is survived by his son Richard and his wife, Linda (Bergantini), and daughters Laurie Golden and her husband, Brent, and Karen Deluty and her husband Edward.

He was the grandfather of Lindsey Golden and her fiancée Sorran Ford, Joshua Golden, Rachael Nicastro and her husband Samuel, Alexander Bloom and Alana and Evan Deluty.

He previously served as the CEO of Independent Glass and Independent Realty. He was a Mason and a Shriner for over 60 years, a proud member of Euclid Lodge and a charter member as well as past captain of the Shrine Motor Corp. Herb also served as a State Senator, a member of Toastmasters of RI, a SCORE representative, a six-year board member of the National Glass Assn., and received the esteemed "Hank Award" for industry service. He was the first president/treasurer and organizer of the RI Glass Dealer's Assn. and a member of the Touro Fraternal Assn.

He served for six years as chairman of the "Glass Show", a national trade organization, as well as a member of the advisory council for the Department of Employment Security. He also served on the City of Cranston Highway Safety Committee. The Better Business Bureau honored him with a community service award. He was nominated for the Jefferson Award and worked on the Mayor's Committee for Economic Development.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, December 20, at 1 p.m. at Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Burial will be in Sharon Memorial Park, Sharon, Mass. Contributions may be made to Shriners Burn Center in Boston and/or Temple Sinai. Shiva will be observed at his late residence Sat. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. and Sun. 1 p.m.-4 p.m. and 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Stephen M. Brown, 82

WARWICK - Stephen M. Brown died December 14 at Tockwotton on the Waterfront, East Providence. He was the husband of Susan (Hahn) Brown for 53 years. Born in Providence, a son of the late Robert Brown and Ida (Samuels) Brown Jagolinzer, he had lived in Warwick for 44 years. He was a vice president at the former R.I. Hospital Trust Bank in Providence and New England Savings Bank in New London, Conn. for many years, retiring in 1995.

He was a Korean Conflict veteran serving in the Army then the Army Reserve, retiring as a colonel after 35 years. He was a URI graduate, 1953, and past president of the URI Alumni Association. He was a member of Temple Beth-El and life member of Overseas Lodge of the Masons. He was past president of the R.I. Jewish Historical Association.

He was the father of Allan Brown and his wife, Calissa, of Garnet Valley, Pa., and Roberta Brown of Santa Monica, Calif. He was the brother of R. Eleanor Brown of Pittsburgh, Pa., and grandfather of Laurel and Ian. Contributions may be made to the R.I. Jewish Historical Association.

Nehoma "Hummy" (Soorkis) Chebot, 85

SOMERSET, Mass., - Nehoma "Hummy" (Soorkis) Chebot died on November 24 at the Fall

River Jewish Home. She was the wife of sixty-two years of William M. Chebot. She was born in Fall River, the daughter of the late Isaac and Celia (Cohen) Soorkis. She was a 1946 graduate of the BMC Durfee High School. She graduated from Bryant College with a degree in business administration in 1949 and worked for the Census Bureau at the Department of Commerce in Boston for ten years.

She was a member of the choir at Temple Beth El in Fall River and was also active in Hadasah, past president of the sisterhood and was a recipient of the Light of Torah Award. She was also a member of the Allegro Glee Club, Hebrew Ladies Helping Hand Society, Red Hat Society, Brandeis University National Women's Committee and the League of Women Voters.

Survivors besides her husband are a daughter, Bonnie L.C. Gibson and her husband Patrick of Longmeadow, Mass., a son, Jeffrey M. Chebot and his wife Gerri Goldman of Wyncote, Pa., grandchildren Adam, Ethan, Celia and Eric, a sister Goldie Cohen of Warwick, R.I., and several nieces and nephews. She was the sister of the late Libby Kolodoff.

Contributions may be made to Temple Beth El, 385 High Street, Fall River, MA 02720 or the Fall River Jewish Home, 538 Robeson Street, Fall River, MA 02720.

Dr. Marvin S. Kerzner, 83

PROVIDENCE - Dr. Marvin S. Kerzner, a lifelong Providence resident and an internist for 50 years, died December 5. He was the founder of the Sum-

mit Medical Center, Pavilion and Highland Court, a life care community.

He earned a B.S. from Boston University and an M.S. in Physical Chemistry from Tufts University. He worked at U.S. Steel as a chemist before attending medical school at the University of Bologna in Italy. In addition to his medical practice and pioneering senior living communities, he was also a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at Brown University and his medical practice was a clinical rotation site for the Physicians Assistants program at Northeastern University. He was the recipient of the Preceptorship Award from the Miriam and Rhode Island Hospitals and Brown University for outstanding teacher in the field of internal medicine.

Born in Providence, R.I., he was the son of Etta (Labush) and Louis Kerzner. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, the former Thelma S. Resnick, his daughters Irene, Debbie and Lisa and six grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Arnold and sisters Dorothy and Karen and was pre-deceased by his sister Arlene. He and his wife were lifelong runners and competed in marathons together and Marvin was an avid sailor.

Contributions may be made to the Dr. Marvin S. Kerzner Memorial Fund, Dr. Dorothy Kerzner Lipsky, 99 Battery Place, 26D, New York, N.Y. 10280.

Susan Kinney-Silverman, 60

BETHLEHEM, Pa. - Susan Kinney-Silverman died December 1. She was the wife of John Kinney. Born in Providence, a daughter of Elaine (Mushkin) Silverman of Saunderstown

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FROM PAGE 26 **OBITUARIES**

and the late Alan Silverman, she had lived in Bethlehem for 32 years. She was a medical secretary for many years, until her retirement 10 years ago. She was a 1971 graduate of Pilgrim High School, Warwick.

She was the mother of Adam, Sarah and Lauren Kinney, all of Bethlehem; sister of David Silverman of West Warwick and Vickie Turnquist of Saunderson.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, December 22 at 11:00 a.m. in Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston. Contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 146 Clifford St., Providence, RI 02903. Shiva will be private.

Anita Norman, 91

WARWICK - Anita Norman, of Tamarisk Residence, died December 14. She was the wife of the late Elias Norman. Born in Holden, Mass., a daughter of the late Samuel and Ruth (Farber) Reisher, she had lived in White Plains, N.Y., before moving to Warwick. She was a member of Temple Beth-El and was active in Temple Sinai's senior group.

She was the mother of Barbara R. Kahn and her husband, Douglas Counts; grandmother of Zack and his wife, Sarah, and Ilana and her husband, Tyler; great grandmother of Elijah and Arna. Contributions may

be made to the Jewish Seniors Agency, 100 Niantic Ave., Providence, RI 02907.

Samuel "Sam" Penn, 97

SUNRISE, Fla. - Samuel Penn, a longtime resident of Sunrise, Fla., died November 30. He was the husband of Loretta Penn, deceased July 22, 2011, for over 70 years. Born in Providence, he was the son of Harry and Sadie (Zura) Penn. He graduated from Hope High School and the University Rhode Island, with a B.S. in chemical engineering, Phi Beta Kappa. While working for the U.S. Weather Bureau, he was selected to teach meteorology at M.I.T. to pilots and engineers during WW II while earning his Masters Degree in Meteorology.

He returned to the U.S. Weather Bureau at Logan Airport, Mass., until transferring to the Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Mass., where he was involved in upper atmospheric research, U-2 utilization weather monitoring and computer based forecasting until his retirement at age 55.

He was a voracious reader, president of his computer club, avid bridge player, golfer and tennis player until his early 80s.



He was volunteer math teacher at Plantation High School and president of his condo association at Omega in Plantation.

He was the brother of David E. Penn, Pawtucket, the late Leo, Julius, Raymond, Robert Penn and Esther Berson. He is also survived by his children, Renee and husband, Michael Coplan of Milford, Conn., and Barry and wife Susan Penn of Wynnewood, Pa.; grandchildren, Scott Coplan and wife Susi D'Ambria of N.Y., Neil and wife, Ronna Coplan of Mass., Reuben and Aaron Penn; great-grandchildren, Nathan Coplan, Emily Coplan, Daniel Coplan, Rachel Coplan and Sophie Hardin.

Contributions may be made to Wills Eye Hospital, 840 Walnut Street, Suite 1540, Philadelphia, PA 19107, willseye.org, the Daniel Cantor Senior Center, 5000 Nob Hill Road, Sunrise, FL 33351 or Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 15, 45 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT 06460.

Grace S. Prescott, 89

FALL RIVER, Mass. - Grace S. Prescott died December 8 at the Fall River Jewish Home. Born in Fall River, Mass., she was a daughter of the late Harris and Tillie (Kaplan) Prescott. She is survived by her nephews Harris and Zev Prescott.

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

Lily Salzberg, 64

PROVIDENCE - Lily Salzberg, of Oakland Gardens, N.Y., died December 14 at Philip Hurler Inpatient Center, Providence. Born in Germany, a daughter of the late Morris and Henia (Pasternak) Salzberg, she was a lifelong New York resident. Lily was a secretary for MetLife Insurance Co. for 47 years, retiring this year.

She was the sister of the late Frances Weinberg, sister-in-law of Alan Weinberg of West Warwick, aunt of Deena Riess and her husband, Chris, of Warwick; Brian Weinberg and his wife, Shannon, of Centennial, Colo.; and Jason Weinberg of Portland, Me. She was the great aunt of Bryant, Jacob, Travis, Haiden, Barrett and Cameron.

Contributions may be made to Home & Hospice Care of RI.

M. Howard Triedman, M.D., 83

M. Howard Triedman, M.D., died on December 14. He was the husband of Dr. Ruth (Selden) Triedman, and father of Karen (Ronald Markoff), Nancy (Louis Goldman) of Providence and J.Russell Triedman (Melissa) of New York. He is also survived by his brother, Dr. Leonard J. Triedman (Cynthia) of Narragansett and his grandchildren Sidra and Allegra Scharf, Stephanie (Charles Cohen), Miranda, Thomas and Eleanor Triedman. He was the son of the late Dr. Harry and

Charlotte (Freedman) Triedman. He is survived by his caregivers, Courtney Whynter, Gina Robinson and Richard Mayanjo.

A graduate of Moses Brown School, he graduated summa cum laude from Brown University, where he was elected in his junior year to Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi, the national honor societies. He received his medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, where he was elected to membership in the medical honor society, Alpha Omega Alpha.

He served in the United States Navy prior to establishing his neurological practice in Providence, where he was on the staff of the Rhode Island and Miriam Hospitals. He was Professor Emeritus of Neurology at Brown University's Warren Alpert Medical School and Chief of the Neurological Service at Miriam Hospital, where he served as president of the medical staff. He was also a member of the Investment Board of Lifespan and the Rhode Island Workmen's Compensation Board.

Contributions may be made to The Miriam Hospital or to a charity of one's choice.

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FROM PAGE 21 **HEROES**

my family hero because he introduced me to sports. Without sports, I would not have as many friends as I do right now. One of the moments I remember with my dad is playing catch with a baseball. That meant so much to me because that's when I started to love playing sports and playing Tee ball.

My dad also introduced me to my favorite sport which is soccer. I remember my dad used to take me a lot to the JCC field and we would play with the soccer ball. Later on, I started to play in the East Side Soccer League. Also, my dad introduced my sister, my brother and me to tennis. When we played tennis, it was so fun we would laugh, play and run around and learn how to play the sport. This is why my dad is my family hero.

Reese Sock, 10 - My family heroes

are my mom and dad because they are always there for me when I am sad, when I am sick, or when I just need someone. When I am in the water or on the field they are always at my side. These are some of the reasons that my mom and dad are my family heroes.

Jodd Sheer, 10 - My hero is my great grandfather for many reasons. My Dad tells me stories about him. He says that he was nice and very friendly and very funny. Once in a while, my dad will bring him up and I wish that I would meet him. He was tall and I can still remember a story when he was alive that my great grandmother said that he had a heavy foot meaning that he drove fast. All in all, he is my hero for many wonderful reasons.

Lipsky on display

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN
anorman@jewishalliancieri.org

Naomi Geller Lipsky, a Judaic artist and freelance writer for The Voice, was recently elected President of the Society of Gilders (societyofgilders.org). The Society of Gilders is an international non-profit organization dedicated to the practice and preservation of the art of using gold and metal leaf. She has been a member of this organization since just after it was founded 25 years ago. Lipsky often incorporates gold leaf into her art, which features the technique of



Naomi Geller Lipsky

quilling, or paper filigree, and has primarily Biblical and liturgical themes.

Her artwork will be on display at the North Scituate Public Library (scituatelibrary.org), at 606 West Greenville Road, North Scituate, R.I., until December 30. Lipsky's website is lipskyart.com.

Stock, a culinary playground on the East Side

BY IRINA MISSIURO

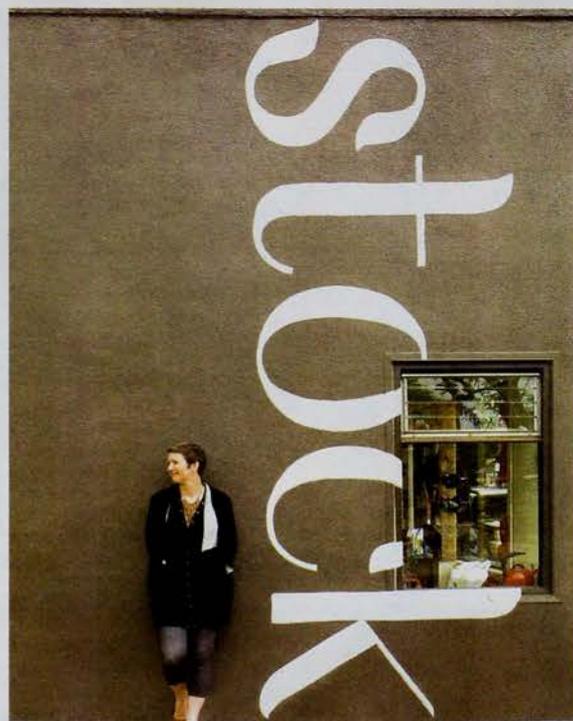
IMissiuoro@jewishalliancieri.org

Those who haven't yet ventured into Stock Culinary Goods on Hope Street in Providence are in for a treat. Jan Faust Dane, the friendly owner and advisor on culinary delights, greets every visitor with an enthusiastic "Welcome!" Faust Dane loves to help her customers, who enjoy food - talking about it, cooking it, learning about its preparation and shopping for gadgets. Faust Dane emphasizes that Stock is not a gift store. "We want you to know that, if you want a spatula or a whisk or a colander, it's here. Also, if you need something really unique and special not found in big-box stores, we're equipped with that too."

BUSINESS PROFILE

While not primarily a gift store, Stock offers many locally made gifts. Customers looking to buy a present for the foodie in their lives will have fun choosing among such popular offerings as cheeseboards from Wakefield and leather mason jar holders from Warren. Selling local products is fundamentally important to Faust Dane. She says, "I'm very optimistic about the rebound of manufacturing in the U.S., and it really has to happen at the corner-store level."

She is doing her part to promote local merchandise and bring people together. Frequently, Faust Dane overhears conversations strangers strike up with one another



HOWARD CHU

in the store to discuss a recipe, a tool or a preparation technique. She's thrilled about Stock's influence on the neighborhood - its ability to connect food enthusiasts: "It's always annoyed me that cooking, which is such a primal thing, is relegated to the mall or the internet. People should be swapping stories, sharing ideas. It happens all the time here. We have a little bit of a festive problem. It's fun and lively and playful."

A recent example of such festivity happened right after Thanksgiving. Disenchanted with the solitary aspect of the Cyber Monday experience, Faust Dane invited her customers to leave the house without having to change out of their pajamas to mingle. As an incentive, she offered a 25 percent discount to those brave enough to display their nighttime attire in public. The photos on the store's Facebook page prove that the stunt was successful. Faust Dane often updates the locals on what's happening at Stock with the help of social media; she says, "Twitter and Facebook have been major facets in our outreach." Her previous experience as a writer for the "eat. shop" guides comes through in her witty and humorous posts.

In addition to educating customers who approach her with questions, she loves to offer informal and social classes: "We just like to stand around the central table, make friends, learn some techniques, go over ideas and inspiration. They [the classes] are always very fun and usually on offbeat things." In the past, Stock has presented such interesting lessons as sauerkraut fermentation, oyster shucking, knife skills, and pairings of cheeses with

wines. Usually, the store holds at least one or two per month.

Since the classes are currently on a holiday hiatus, those planning to adhere to New Year's resolutions, such as eating healthfully, might benefit from some additional culinary inspiration. Faust Dane shared several of her favorite products with The Jewish Voice readers. The cookbook she often returns to is "Ruhlman's Twenty: 20 Techniques, 200 Recipes, a Cook's Manifesto" by Michael Ruhlman. It appeals to her because "it splits the line between the scientific and the creative approach." Her preferred gadgets are those that Microplane makes. They include cheese graters, chocolate shavers and zesters. And the item she can't stop raving about is the Opinel carbon pocket knife. Faust Dane enjoys the knife's versatility - her family has one in the house, in the car and in her husband's pocket at all times.

Those who stop by the store, which recently celebrated its first anniversary, might discover other gastronomic treasures. Faust Dane's expertise alone is a great reason for a visit. Most customers who live in the area already know this. She says, "The reception of the community has been beyond all expectations. ... I'm blown away and delighted by how my wildest dreams are met. ... It's been the most intense and rewarding and joy-filled experience of my life."

Stock Culinary Goods (stockpvd.com) is located at 756 Hope Street, Providence. Their phone number is 521-0101.

Editor's note: This is one of a series of profiles of local businesses, some of which advertise with The Jewish Voice.

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BIRTHDAY – Ruth Jaffa Albert celebrates her 80th birthday, granddaughter Jennifer Jaffa Jennings gives her a birthday hug.

SARA MARINO



George E. Lieberman

RECOGNITION – Vetter & White, Providence, R.I., ranked as a Tier 1 law firm for the State of Rhode Island in the 2014 Edition of U.S. News-Best Lawyers “Best Law Firms.” is pleased to announce that its partner George E. Lieberman, a Martindale-Hubbell AV preeminent rated attorney, has been named for the tenth consecutive year as one of the best lawyers in the United States in the field of Commercial Litigation, and has again been recognized as one of the best U.S. Lawyers in the field of Litigation-Real Estate, and also as a Super Lawyer in the area of business litigation by the New England Super Lawyers Magazine for the seventh consecutive year.



MAZAL TOV

PHDS band provides entertainment for the Hanukkah celebration

Providence Hebrew Day School students Dena Abraham, Meir Mordechai Peromsik, Meyer Twersky and Gavriel Schwartz perform in the PHDS band, under the direction of Mr. Norman Rosenfield, at the Annual PHDS Hanukkah Performance on Wednesday night, December 4.

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Photo by Peter Goldberg

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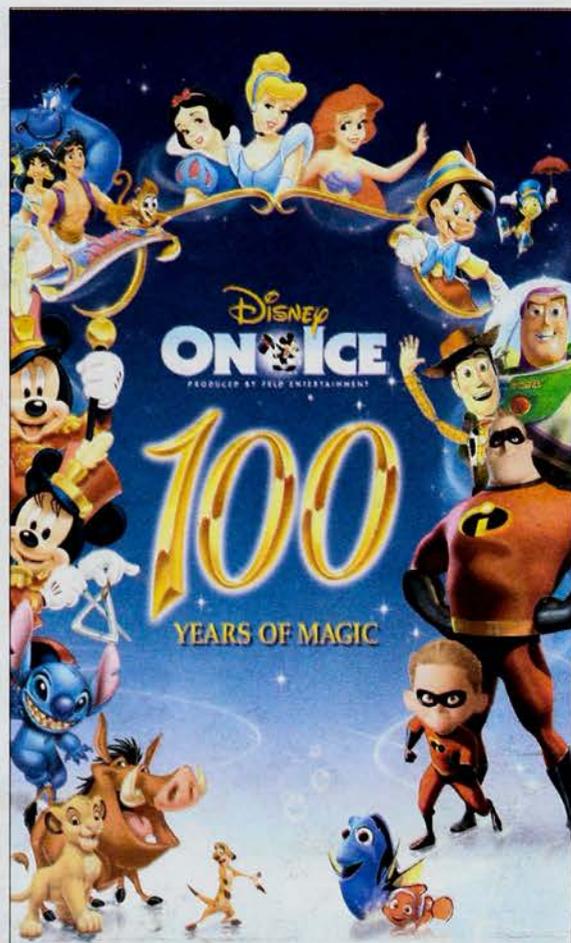
January 26, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



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SCRANTON, Pa – Miriam and Arthur Plitt brought the Jewish Voice to their cousins Faye and Mel Spatt, who are active members in Scranton's Jewish community. Miriam says she brought the paper to share their Rhode Island experience.



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Email to: anorman@jewishallianceri.org or mail to:
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Caring and Social Responsibility: Helping our Local Community in Need



People of all ages need help these days – including seniors, many of whom are living alone and struggling quietly to manage life’s logistics and make ends meet.

Our Caring and Social Responsibility initiative is there for home-bound seniors – making it possible for volunteers to deliver more than 10,000 kosher Meals on Wheels, and some very welcome conversation and critical social support, to people who may not have other visitors or social support. We also partner with the Jewish Seniors Agency to send volunteers to nursing homes, assisted living residences, hospitals, and private homes – making 4,000 visits annually to keep elders company and help them celebrate Shabbat and continue other Jewish traditions.

Please support our 2014 Annual Campaign.

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Last year's Annual Campaign

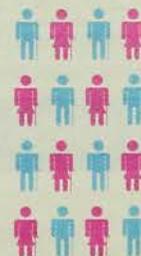
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