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SENIORS



The memorial in Brussels

Brussels: A frightening place

BY CNAAN LIPHSHIZ

JTA – Growing up, trips to stay with my Jewish family in Brussels were a taste of freedom. In my native Israel, waves of Palestinian terrorist attacks kept me under constant maternal surveillance and fear of bus bombings limited my excursions to biking distance.

On the tranquil streets of the Belgian capital, by contrast, I could wander at will amid the mix of medieval architecture and glass-and-steel skyscrapers. Even riding the tram with my cousin Eli

BRUSSELS | 7

Temple to honor friends who have cooked minyan breakfast for decades

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

CRANSTON – If you were to look at a seed without knowing it could eventually blossom into a flower, tree or another type of beautiful plant, you would probably pass it by without a second thought. Why pay attention to something so small?

This example of the value of small things was among those brought up during a discussion of the Torah portion on March 26 at Temple Sinai's weekly minyan breakfast.

Some might say that these breakfasts, organized every week for more than 30 years by Stanley Horovitz and Donald Wexler, are another example of something that started small and became beautiful. The breakfasts have become a staple of Shabbat services at Temple Sinai where 20 or so members gather every Saturday morning for coffee, orange juice, bagels, challah, French toast, eggs and oatmeal. The oatmeal, says Horovitz, is the moneymaker (metaphorically speaking, since the breakfast is free).



Longtime friends Donald Wexler, left, and Stanley Horovitz.

"Ariel, you shouldn't have this oatmeal," Horovitz warned me with a smile. "You'll never be able to have anyone else's!"

When I asked for the recipe, he laughed, and said he couldn't give it to me because he had no idea what he was doing.

HONORING | 16

Poverty among R.I.'s senior citizens is a large and growing concern

BY EMILY JONES

Last month, a group of seniors at Temple Sinai's Senior Kosher Cafe, in Cranston, shared their experiences and perspectives in a roundtable conversation about economic issues here in Rhode Island.

One woman, age 87, described a particularly difficult time when her rent, $865, wasn't much less than her heating bill, which had spiked to $637 for one month. The combined sum was simply unmanageable on her retirement income, she said. Fortunately, she was able to work out an arrangement with the energy company that allowed her to pay down her bill slowly, over time.

This woman is far from alone. Many Rhode Island seniors struggle with income insecurity. Other seniors who participate in the Jewish Family Service of R.I.'s Senior Kosher Cafe, in Providence and Cranston, have expressed similar worries. Another senior participant voiced the issue bluntly: "Everything's going up. What if I live another 10 years?"

As our state population ages, poverty among senior citizens is a growing concern. In Rhode Island, about 11.3 percent of older women and 7.3 percent of older men have incomes below the federal poverty line. Many others struggle with "living on the edge"– which led to the Jewish Alliance's initiative of the same name. The 2013 Living on the Edge report found that one in five R.I. Jewish households, of all ages, lived in or near poverty.

Hunger in R.I.

Food security is a tremendous concern. The Louis & Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry, in Providence, served

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THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE

"The flame of Jewish learning continues to burn from generation to generation."

Israeli settler, Palestinian peace activist bring personal stories to Rhode Island

Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger and Ali Abu Awwad will speak in the Providence area April 7-9. They will tell their personal stories and talk about Roots/Judur/Shorashim (Roots), the Palestinian Israeli Grassroots Initiative for Understanding, Non-Violence, and Transformation, an organization they created together with other Palestinians and settlers.

Their public presentation, "Seeing the Humanity in Your Enemy," will take place at Brown University, Temple Beth-El, Congregation Beth Sholom, and Masjid al-Islam.

Schlesinger is an Orthodox rabbi, teacher, and passionate Zionist settler who was transformed by his friendship with Awwad. His perception of the reality of the Middle East conflict and Zionism shifted profoundly upon being exposed to the parallel universe to which Awwad introduced him. Awwad is a leading proponent of Palestinian non-violent resistance and reaches out to Jewish Israelis.

Roots is located on a piece of land in Gush Etzion owned by the Awwad family and abutting the Palestinian town of Beit Umar. The area is one of the rare places that both Palestinians and Israelis can access without special government permits, thus facilitating grassroots, unmediated get-togethers and conversations between people from the two sides.

> **"Participants involved in this initiative are deeply aware of the complexities of the conflict; they do not hide their many deep disagreements and the lackof equality between the two parties."**

Participants involved in this initiative are deeply aware of the complexities of the conflict; they do not hide their many deep disagreements and the lack of equality between the two parties. What unites them is their honest search for human understanding and non-violent resolution of the conflict.

Schlesinger, originally from New York, emigrated to Israel at the age of 20, and has lived over the Green Line, in Alon Shvut, Gush Etzion, for more than 30 years. He has spent over 10 years learning in Israeli Talmudic seminaries and worked toward a master's degree in Jewish philosophy at Hebrew University. For three decades, Schlesinger taught Jewish studies in college, seminary and adult education settings in Jerusalem, Florida, and Texas. He became involved in interfaith work with Christians, and then Muslims, in Dallas, but never met a Palestinian as an equal until two years ago.

Awwad was jailed by Israel during the first intifada for stone throwing and membership in a terrorist cell. Along with his mother, who was also imprisoned, Awwad engaged in a 17-day hunger strike and learned the tremendous power of non-violence. While in jail, he read and came under the influence of Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and Nelson Mandela.

During the second intifada, Awwad was wounded by an Israeli in a drive-by shooting and was evacuated to Saudi Arabia for medical treatment. While in the hospital, he received word that his beloved brother had been shot and killed by an Israeli soldier at a checkpoint. He joined the Bereaved Families Forum, a group that brings together people from both sides of the conflict who have lost loved ones to violence. There he began to learn how to channel his pain and anger not only into non-violent resistance, but also into reaching over the chasm that divides Palestinians and Israelis.

Schlesinger and Awwad will start their Providence visit with a lecture at Brown University on Thursday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m. in Macmillan 117, 167 Thayer St. On Friday, April 8, at 7 p.m., they will speak at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave. On Saturday, April 9, at 11 a.m., they will present at Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., followed by a lunch panel. Their last speaking engagement will be on Saturday, April 9, at 8 p.m. at Masjid al-Islam, 40 Sayles Hill Road, in North Smithfield.

All events are free and open to the public, although donations will be requested at some of the venues for meals, to support the work of Roots, and to help needy Palestinian families. In addition to the venues hosting the two, co-sponsors of the visit include J Street Rhode Island and the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

For more information on their organization, go to friendsofroots.net.

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Purim parade offers community fun March 24



PHOTOS | LEAH CAMARA













It's not manna from heaven, but this Passover, provide something just as crucial to the survival of the Israeli people.

In a country where knifings and other terrorist attacks are an all-too-frequent occurrence, your gift to Magen David Adom ensures Israel's national paramedic organization has the medical supplies and blood it needs to save lives. So this year, while you recount the story of the Jews' redemption from slavery, your gift will help modern-day Israelis survive the threats they face today.

Make a gift today at www.afmda.org/donate. Or call 866.632.2763 to learn about sponsoring a laboratory or other facility at Israel's soon-to-be constructed Marcus National Blood Services Center. *Pesach kasher v'sameach.*

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My Fitness Journey: Suspension ropes, spandex and soy milk

Part four of a series

I kept a diary during my Fitness Journey, which chronicles my daily activities, experiences, thoughts, conclusions and evaluations. I hope you enjoy reading my summaries and commentaries as much as I have enjoyed writing them.



KARA MARZIALI

Day 22

In my previous articles I told you I wanted to learn something new and to push beyond my comfort zone. I also told you that many core exercises don't require specialized equipment. However, when I have become skilled at one exercise, Eddie starts to modify it for me and introduces a new piece of equipment. Initially, I had no intention of approaching the TRX suspension ropes; they seemed too menacing. (TRX is an imperfect acronym for Total body Resistance training eXercise.) Made up of nylon straps that suspend from the wall with a buckle and loops for hands or feet, this unassuming piece of equipment intimidated me. But my hesitation disappeared when Eddie showed me how to use it properly. It's not nearly as scary as I imagined it to be.

Some of the J-Fitness members I spoke with really like TRX because they felt it helped them develop more upper body strength while minimizing their chance of injury because it's gentle on the joints and muscles.

The other important factor in my willingness to try something new is that after three weeks, I have begun to develop a rapport with Eddie, and I trust him. I think we're both learning from each other.

Day 24

I was in Stop & Shop for only a few items – eggs, lettuce, bananas and milk – cruising the perimeter of the store when I heard someone call my name.

"Kaah-ruh!"

I turned around to find an acquaintance rounding the corner of the ice cream aisle, her cart filled with frozen entrees, sweetened cereals and prepackaged sundries.

"I've read your articles in The Jewish Voice, and I am enjoying your 'journey,'" she said as she loosened her grip on the carriage to indicate air quotes.

I finished tenderly inspecting the last egg in the carton. "Thank you."

"How much weight have you lost? Did you need to lose weight? You eat pretty healthy," she said in one breath as she viewed the select items in my basket.

Before I could speak, she continued on, "And where do you find the time?"

Again, I tried to communicate, but her uninterrupted train of thought persisted. Suddenly, without warning, her words came tumbling forth.

"I just don't have the time. I. Just. Don't. Have. The. Time. How do you do it? Aren't you working full time? Still teaching part time, too? Do you exercise after work? Forget the time, who the heck feeeeeeels like it? I am exhausted at the end of the day. Aren't you tired? By the end of the day, by the end of the week? You don't workout on the weekends, do you? Oh, I could never. Never, ever. I just don't have the time. Don't have the time."

Have it be known that I did not get a word in edgewise, and thus I was never able to answer her questions, so let me explain. (No doubt she will be reading this.)

I make the time. And I want to do this. This opportunity came about because I was ready and willing. No, I didn't need to lose weight; that wasn't why I took on this challenge.

Am I tired? Of course, I am tired! I am a wife, mother, daughter, sister, friend, employee and volunteer. But I have discovered that when I am in fit condition, eat well, move my body and get sufficient sleep, I can do more because I have additional energy.



PHOTO | EDDIE FLEURY

Using the TRX suspension system was not as scary as it seemed.

Let's face it, we all find time in our day to surf the web, chit chat on the phone or watch the news – because we've made those priorities. Often, while I am watching television, I stretch, bend, lift and move. I do not have to break a sweat. I simply need to choose to make a few small changes in my daily routine and stick with it.

Day 26

Last week I decided I would go shopping for workout wear. I wanted something stylish, modest and comfortable. However, most yoga or workout pants are very form fitting, and certain tops reveal bare midriffs or have cap sleeves. (Do those really look attractive on anyone?) As you may remember, there are certain areas of my body of which I am not particularly fond. At this point in our relationship, I am not afraid to admit that my thighs, hips and buttocks are especially troubling to me. One look at my figure and you'll notice how "full bodied" they are. This ample shape is highly regarded in Baroque art forms – voluptuous women in paintings by Rubens come to mind – but this silhouette is essentially unattractive in our 21st century culture, and we often go to extremes to prevent it. Be that as it may, I was determined to find a fashionable pair of workout pants and matching moisture-wicking shirt. I finally emerged with a suitable fitness outfit two hours later.

Day 28

I've gotten a bit cocky. After four weeks of training, I thought I could handle any physical challenge. Thus, I ventured to take a J-Fit class today. Clearly I did not know what I was getting myself into. In the program guide, the description states that J-Fit is the "umbrella term for aerobic and strength training classes." The description goes on to explain that the class can vary depending on instructor and that participants will "walk out tired and toned." (Let it be known that I shuffled out feeling weary and wobbly!)

Let me go into more detail:

Envision a room with eight women – of varying ages, weights, heights, sizes and shapes – trying to jump, stretch, lunge and scuttle in synchronization

JOURNEY | 13



PHOTO |RACHEL KOCH

Wearing spandex and jumping around can be embarrassingly awkward, but I am willing to take responsible risks for the sake of wellness.

the JEWISH VOICE

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Taking Beethoven beyond the concert hall

BY FRAN OSTENDORF
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Jonathan Biss has been surrounded by music for as long as he can remember. That early influence has made him who he is today.

His mother is celebrated violinist Miriam Fried. His father is violinist and conductor Paul Biss. Both taught at the University of Indiana in Bloomington, where he grew up. His paternal grandmother was Raya Garbusova, a Russian cellist.

Born in 1980, Biss chose piano as his instrument. He studied at Indiana University and at the Curtis Institute of Music. And he's developed a special interest, some might call it an obsession, for Beethoven's piano sonatas. "I'm hardly unique among musicians," he says, "that I'm so obsessed." He says he's found that the sonatas "grab you by the collar." And so he has set out to record all of Beethoven's piano sonatas. He's at the midway point of this undertaking and says 2019 is the target for finishing the recordings.

He's taken Beethoven into the classroom, too. He's constructed, and he teaches a massive open online course (MOOC) on Beethoven's piano sonatas. Anyone can take this class and learn a little something about Biss' beloved Beethoven – 100,000 people have taken advantage of this opportunity so far. He's still adding lectures to the MOOC.



PHOTO | BENJAMIN EALOVEGA

Jonathan Biss

"I didn't know that I had this talent," he said. "The great thing about online learning," he said, is that it's for everyone including people who are a little too intimated for the traditional classroom.

Judaism is also a big part of who he is. "Obviously, it's a part of my heritage; it's in every pore," said Biss. "It's not a question of belief. But it would never occur to me not to call myself Jewish."

But music is what drives him and what drives him to share it with others. Biss said that it's important to reach beyond the concert hall.

And he's doing that here in Providence with his involvement with Community MusicWorks, a group that brings music to children who wouldn't necessarily have the same opportunities that Jonathan had.

Community MusicWorks serves approximately 130 students from Providence's West and South sides with free music lessons, as well as ensemble rehearsals and performance opportunities. Its aim is to "create a cohesive urban community through music education and performance that transforms the lives of children, families and musicians." Teaching and mentoring is a strong part of its model.

Biss has been involved for a number of years; he's played several benefit concerts for the organization. He also sits on its advisory council. He went to summer camp, he says, with a musician who was already involved and pulled him in.

As Biss terms it, "the music world is pretty small. I was attracted to the organization and its mission."

Jonathan Biss will play Beethoven's Sonata in B flat Major, Op. 106 "Hammerklavier," and Schubert's Sonata in A Major, D. 959 in a benefit for Community MusicWorks Friday, April 8 at 8 p.m. at RISD Museum's Metcalf Auditorium. Tickets are available at communitymusicworks.org.

FRAN OSTENDORF is editor of The Jewish Voice.

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Students at Tifereth Israel created mitzvah strips.



Jane Goodall

Mitzvot meets Jane Goodall at UMASS Dartmouth event

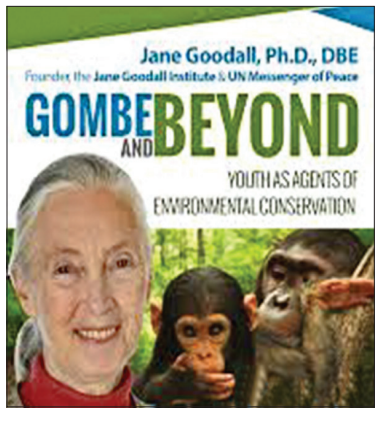
BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

A group of students enrolled in the after-school educational program at Tifereth Israel Congregation, in New Bedford, Massachusetts, has been invited to present their class project at an event where esteemed primatologist Jane Goodall will speak.

"Gombe & Beyond: An Afternoon & Evening with Dr. Jane Goodall" (which is already sold out) will be held at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth on April 7. The event will include a Green Fair, which will recognize student-created projects that address environmental issues.

Tifereth Israel's students proposed the creation of "mitzvah strips," thin slips of recycled paper on which students write down their *mitzvot*.

The temple's education director, Melynda Schudrick, of Dartmouth, Massachusetts, has been working on the project with the students, who are in second through seventh grade. She explained that since their invitation to the fair, the students have been writing down "green" ways they fulfill acts of *tikkun olam*, or repairing the world. These good deeds include recycling, composting, and even pushing the economy button on Schudrick's car.



One of Schudrick's goals is to ensure that the students do a variety of *mitzvot*; they can only use the same mitzvah once every five days, which encourages them to find new ways of *tikkun olam*. Another goal is to create a chain of the mitzvah strips that is as long as the Torah: 140 feet.

"We're about halfway there!" Schudrick said with a laugh during an interview on March 22.

Another component of the event is a student environmental essay contest. Tifereth Israel seventh-grader Julia Rosenberg earned one of eight spots at the dinner table with Goodall by writing about ways to reduce our carbon footprints. Her straightforward logic and cleverly simple language prompts readers to wonder why they're not already doing the things she suggests in her essay.

Schudrick says her students are excited about the project and she believes the values they are learning will carry on beyond the classroom. Since starting the project, she said, the kids have started to complain that they don't have a compost bin, and have become enthusiastic about taking other environmental measures.

In addition to her students, the project has inspired Schudrick's sons. Her oldest, 17-year-old David, teaches the class at Tifereth Israel that is "doing the mechanical part" of the mitzvah strips project, as Schudrick describes it. That is to say they are measuring the mitzvah strips and putting them together. David is assisted by his brother, Asher, 15. And Schudrick's youngest son, 11-year-old Ezra, came bounding into the room when he heard his mother talking about the project to share his idea of allowing members of the audience to create mitzvah strips to add onto the chain.

"A never-ending chain of *mitzvot*," said Schudrick thoughtfully. "I like it."

ARIEL BROTHMAN is a freelance writer who lives in Wrentham, Massachusetts.



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Jewish-Catholic theological series at Providence College

BY JEWISH VOICE STAFF

Providence College will host a two-day series of theological exchanges on April 4-5. The series, "Theological Reflections on Catholic-Jewish Relations Fifty Years after Nostra Aetate," is sponsored by the theology department, the graduate program in theology, The Center for Catholic & Dominican Studies, the Office of Institutional Diversity, and the Development of Western Civilization Program.



Nostra aetate, Latin for "in our time," is the name given to the Declaration on the Relation of the Church with Non-Christian Religions, which was developed by the Second Vatican Council. The council, which ran from 1962 to 1965, addressed relations between Roman Catholics and the rest of the world, as well as many other topics.

The first public event, at 7 p.m. on April 4 in Aquinas Lounge, focuses on "recent Catholic and Jewish statements, their theological implications, and the current state of affairs in Jewish-Catholic dialogue," according to a publication from Providence College. The speakers are Philip Cunningham, a professor of theology at St. Joseph's University and director of the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations, and Daniel Lehmann, president of Hebrew College and a professor of pluralism and Jewish education.

The second day of the series, on April 5, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Barnini Room, lower Harkins, provides an open forum for faculty, staff, students and local clergy to discuss new Vatican and Jewish statements. Those who make a reservation will receive advance copies of readings that will be discussed.

RSVP for the second day at www.alumni.providence.edu/JCT, or 401-865-2274. For more information, contact Arthur Urbano of the Theology Department at aurbano@providence.edu.

Examining our role models



RABBI HOWARD VOSS-ALTMAN

In these media-saturated times, when there seem to be as many opinions as there are people, we must ask ourselves, "Who – in the public sphere – will our children look up to? Growing up in the 1960s, there were political figures such as Martin Luther King Jr. or Bobby Kennedy, astronauts like John Glenn and Neil Armstrong, or, in music, depending on your taste, the Beatles or Pete Seeger.

Today, it feels a little trickier. Some years ago, before the basketball player Charles Barkley became a lovable corporate spokesman, he announced to the nation that he was an athlete, not a role model. Barkley explained that playing basketball did not qualify him to be a role model for anyone's children. He added that if young people needed role models, they should look to their teachers and parents, the people they were influenced by on a daily basis.

This week's Torah portion, *Shemini*, asks the same question: who will our role models be? The Israelites are commanded to make their first sacrifice to *Adonai*. In all the excitement, Aaron's sons, Nadav and Abihu, offer "*aish zara*," which is often translated as "alien fire," an offering that was outside of God's instructions. In front of Moses, their father Aaron, and a stunned crowd, God annihilates Nadav and Abihu, which prompts Moses to say, on behalf of God, "Through those near to me, I will show myself to be holy." Aaron, in his grief, is silent.

> **"Those who lead must be the most accountable, not only to the people they serve but also to the community at large."**

At such a dramatic moment, what could God have meant by such an enigmatic response? After all, Aaron is the high priest. Isn't he near to God? How could murdering his sons be an illustration of God's holiness?

The rabbis teach us, not surprisingly, that the people who are nearest to God are the rabbis. Thus, the rabbis believed that a person in a position of leadership – a position of respect – must set the highest standards of behavior and moral judgment. According to the rabbis, one isn't chosen to be a leader in order to exercise carte blanche, or to take advantage of one's authority. Rather, those who lead must be the most accountable, not only to the people they serve but also to the community at large. A leader, having stepped up to bear the responsibility of leadership, must also be an exemplar, a model, of both holiness and judgment. In short, a leader must be a *mensch*: a person who understands that holiness is demonstrated through deeds, and that through one's deeds, one's integrity is revealed.

At this critical juncture, we will need to decide who shows themselves to be holy. We will need to decide who is offering "alien fire," and who is offering a more positive vision. We will need to decide who we want our role models to be, what qualities we want our children to admire and what kind of person we want to lead us – both personally and politically. Perhaps when we examine our own role models – who we admire and why we admire them – we may discover the qualities we desire in a leader. My hope is that whomever we choose, he or she will show themselves to be holy by seeking fairness, equity and justice. May those whom we choose be imbued with such a spirit.

FROM PAGE 1

BRUSSELS

was exhilarating. The rails seemed to stretch out endlessly, and there was the added thrill of potentially getting caught without tickets, which we never bothered to buy.

Last week, a series of explosions killed dozens of people in Brussels, at the Zaventem Airport, and at one of the metro stations that Eli and I used to exploit.

"The anxiety is terrible," Eli's father, my uncle, told me, recalling that he quickly did a family headcount after learning of the attacks. "But equally horrible is that these attacks reduce you to feeling happy that strangers whom you've never met died in them, and not your own friends and family."

On a visit to Brussels earlier last month, I had sensed a change. The city no longer felt so free.

At a book signing by Jewish philosopher Alain Finkielkraut, I was shocked to see that he was accompanied by a bodyguard. Outside the building, a dozen police officers stood guard.

Wasn't this an official overreaction to the May 2015 slaying of four people at Brussels' Jewish Museum? I asked Joel Rubinfeld, head of the Belgian League Against Anti-Semitism.

"We are all targets now - philosophers, anti-racism activists, journalists, police officers, the people in this restaurant," Rubinfeld said.

Last week, when I phoned Rabbi Shalom Benizri, who lives in a southern district of Brussels, he was still waiting for word from his loved ones. A communications overload had disabled cell service from several providers, leaving many thousands of people unable to communicate with loved ones.

Benizri, who used to head a large Sephardic community in downtown Brussels before its members moved because of rampant crime in the heavily Muslim area, recalled the museum shooting.

"We were the targets then, but now everyone is a target," said Benizri, echoing Rubinfeld.

During the attack, Benizri was at the airport about to board a flight to Israel, where several of his children live. As chaos broke out and hundreds fled the smoking terminal, he returned to his car and drove home.

In lockdown at home - a precaution that probably applies especially to Orthodox rabbis like him - Benizri told me he is among the local Jews who see no future for their families in Belgium.

"There is enormous concern not only among people like me, but also non-observant Jews," he said. "As for me, my suitcases are packed to go."

Wishing him a happy Purim, I hung up with a sinking feeling about what was happening to the city I love, which is situated only 130 miles from Amsterdam, where I now live with my wife and 4-month-old son.

Trying to put my finger on when things got out of control in Belgium, and Western Europe in general, I remembered a conversation that I had had with Eli 20 years ago in a Brussels metro station.

Attuned to an inchoate rise in anti-Semitic violence to which I was oblivious as a foreigner, Eli had asked me to address him as "Ile," an anagram of his name, when we were on the street. Maybe I should have known then.

INTERFAITH CONVERSATIONS

Tuesday, April 26 | 7pm
Congregation Beth David
102 Kingstown Road, Narragansett

Join us for a panel discussion about pluralism in our state as it relates to the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish faiths, and how we can work more effectively as a community.

Rev. Dr. Donald Anderson
Executive Minister, Rhode Island State Council of Churches

Imam Farid Ansari
Rhode Island Council for Muslim Advancement

Rabbi Sarah Mack, *Temple Beth-El*
President, Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island

For more information or to RSVP, contact Marty Cooper at 401.421.4111 ext. 171 or mcooper@jewishallianceri.org.
Kindly RSVP by April 19.

CRC Community Relations Council
Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island

Vacation? It wasn't meant to be



EDITOR

FRAN OSTENDORF

Next year, I may volunteer to be the poster child for the "Get your flu shot" campaign.

This was supposed to be my long-planned spring-break staycation. I was taking a week off, and the modest plan was to clean out one room in my house. I'd hoped to focus on my home office, which was starting to look like it could be an episode of "Hoarders." OK, it wasn't just starting; it was well on its way.

When I left the Voice's office Friday, the coming week was full of promise. Perhaps I'd attend the joint Reform service at Temple Habonim. And I'd told the folks at Temple Shalom in Middletown that I'd try to attend their Purim Spiel, relocated due to broken pipes and a subsequent flood.

But I was tired, so I stayed home Friday night. By midday Saturday, I knew there was something wrong. But I held out hope that I'd just take the weekend to rest, and then I'd have the entire week ahead to get through my to-do list. But it was not to be: the couch in the den became my closest friend as the aches, pains, headache and other symptoms that would later be confirmed to be Influenza Type A settled in.

This was not what I planned for my spring break.

In the last 25 years, I've probably missed three flu shots. You guessed it: this year was one of those years. I won't go into the reasoning and rationale. What's the point now? But believe me when I tell you that all those people who say, "Flu … ohhhhh, I'll NEVER go through that again," are absolutely correct. Still, I guess it could have been worse because I didn't run a high fever like many people do.

I'm writing this one week after taking to the couch, and I'm still not back to my energetic self. The paper will publish next week thanks to our staff. And I mean that … THANKS!!!! Everyone stepped up this cycle.

And to those of you who wonder what happened to your letter or your email, or why I didn't show up as promised, my apologies. I had the best of intentions. Now you know!

As for that home office … please don't send a camera crew.

Statement on the recent terror attacks

The Community Relations Council of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island is saddened by the recent terrorist activities in Brussels, Belgium; Lahore, Pakistan; and Turkey that have left more than 110 people dead and scores of others seriously injured. We offer our sincerest condolences to the families and friends of those who have perished in these tragic acts of inhumanity. We also pray and hope for a speedy and healthy recovery of those people wounded in these acts of terrorism.

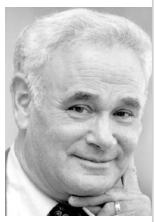
In Israel, since September 2015, more than 35 Israelis and tourists visiting the country have been killed by terrorists. Several more have been wounded and injured. Taylor Force, an American, was the most recent victim of terror. A West Point graduate who served the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan, Force was a student at Vanderbilt University. He was killed in Tel Aviv while vacationing in Israel with his wife, who was seriously injured. During that same time period, a small number of Palestinians living in the territories were killed or wounded by Israeli extremists. We offer our condolences to the many families and friends of those who were killed and wounded in Israel and the territories.

Acts of violence in Israel have become so commonplace that the media around the world no longer treat these attacks as lead news stories. Just a couple of years ago, every attack would have made headlines in daily newspapers and on mainstream broadcast networks. Unfortunately, terror attacks in Israel and the territories, especially since September, have become so commonplace they seem to be underreported.

We no longer seem to feel the pain and the inhumanity associated with brutal murders. The marginalization and normalization of terrorist and extremist attacks must come to an end. Such acts like those in Israel and the territories, Pakistan, Belgium, Turkey, and France must be reported by the media. For each life lost or injured is unconscionable and these acts of terror must be denounced by the international community.

Marty Cooper
Director of the Community Relations Council
of the Jewish Alliance
of Greater R.I.

The undying flame of Jewish learning



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

On Saturday evening, March 5, about 80 members of the Rhode Island Jewish community came together at the Dwares Jewish Community Center, in Providence, to celebrate our collective joy in Jewish learning. The occasion was the third annual "DRASH & Dessert," an educational program sponsored by the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island.

This year's theme was *"V'ahavta L'reacha Kamocha*: Love your neighbor." After a *havdalah* service led by the spirited singing group Pastrami on RI, participants were asked to choose one of five learning sessions: "From Cuba to Newport: Helping Jewish Communities Around the World," led by Rabbis Sarah Mack and Marc Mandel; "Cultivating Love: Spiritual Techniques," led by Rabbis Elan Babchuck, Mark Elber, and Barry Dolinger; "We Can End Homelessness in Rhode Island!," led by Rabbi Alan Flam and members of the Speakers Bureau of the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless; "Jews and Christians: Speaking to Each Other with Respect," led by Rabbis Wayne Franklin and Richard Perlman, and Pastor Dennis Kohl.

I had the privilege of leading "*Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh*: A Workshop on the Names of God." The focus of the discussion for the 15 or so men and women in our group was the first 15 verses of the third chapter of the book of Exodus, which includes Moses' vision of the bush that burns but is not consumed. From out of the flames, Moses hears the mysterious Hebrew words *Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh*, which can be translated as "I will be Who I will be."

I began our workshop by asking each participant to complete in writing a sentence beginning "God is..." Among the responses: "God is love." "God is everywhere, within each of us, unknowable." "God is the overriding process who created and maintains order in the universe." "God is ungendered."

Another participant wrote, "I have absolutely no idea." Still another responded to "God is..." with "God is?" I am drawn to question marks; some readers may recall that I suggested in one of my columns last fall that God is the ultimate unanswerable question.

> **"Sometimes clarity is not a virtue; paradoxically, sometimes clarity obscures a deeper truth."**

Our discussion moved from a review of the written responses concerning the general notion of God to a close look at God's name - or no-name - emanating from the burning bush: *Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh*, I will be Who I will be. The question that dominated our remaining time together was whether God's response was meant to be taken as a name or meant to be taken as a refusal to be named.

My own sense is that *Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh* are words of deliberate and potent ambiguity - words of fluidity, as a woman in our group put it, of openness to continuing interpretation. It is as if God is saying to you and to me, "I will be Who I will be, and you can never limit Me by any name or idea or definition."

In his book "Moses," first published in 1947, the Austrian-born Israeli Jewish scholar Martin Buber (1878-1965) argues that the words *Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh* set the God of ancient Israel apart from the gods of Egypt, who can be conjured, manipulated, even controlled by professional priests who have been trained to speak the sacred formulas and perform the sacred rites. As my colleague Rabbi Lawrence Kushner has written, ever so succinctly, the central message of our *Tanakh*, our Hebrew Bible, is, "I'm God; you're not!"

At the close of the hour-long session, a man named Harry stayed behind to walk me through his unique interpretation of the opening verses of Exodus, chapter 3. Armed with several pages of his own prepared material, he showed me an alternate way of dividing the eleven Hebrew letters of *Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh*. While preserving the exact order of the letters, Harry broke them up to read, *Ehyeh Aish, Re'ey Yah*, which translates to "I will be fire; see (behold) *Yah* [one of the many terms for God in the ancient Near East]."

By choosing to break up the Hebrew letters to form these words, my fellow seeker has attempted to clarify the ambiguous Divine response; this new wording, "I will be fire," speaks directly to Moses' experience: flames shooting forth from a thorn bush that is not being consumed. Moreover, the name *Yah* is clearly recognizable as a widely used term for God.

On the other hand, Harry's ingenious reading of the Hebrew text removes the powerful and fructifying ambiguity of the words *Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh*.

Sometimes clarity is not a virtue; paradoxically, sometimes clarity obscures a deeper truth. I prefer to read these three Hebrew words as they have stood for millennia - in all of their magic and mystery.

Nevertheless, I am immensely grateful that Harry shared with me his ingenious midrash on Exodus, chapter 3, verse 14; his provocative interpretation of three of the most significant words in our sacred canon adds an enduring link to the centuries-long chain of Torah study.

Equipped with Harry's fresh insights, whenever I find myself in the presence of "*Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh*, I will be Who I will be," I will at the very same time feel the presence of "I will be fire; see Me as *Yah*," and I will know that the flame of Jewish learning continues to burn from generation to generation.

JAMES B. ROSENBERG is rabbi emeritus at Temple Habonim, in Barrington. Contact him at rabbiemeritus@templehabonim.org.

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COLUMNS | LETTERS POLICY

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Send letters and op-eds to: The Jewish Voice, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906 or editor@jewishallianceri.org. Include name, city of residence and a contact phone number or email (not for publication).

AIPAC, Trump and the perils of bipartisanship

BY ANDREW SILOW-CARROLL

JTA – I am trying to imagine a conversation between Donald Trump's people and a delegation of Reform rabbis and lay leaders.

Rabbi Jonah Pesner, the Reform movement's man in Washington, told me that Trump's people have agreed to a "staff-to-staff" meeting to discuss Jewish concerns about Trump's policies on immigration, Muslims and women, to name a few.

Pesner hopes it is the start of a long process of repentance – *teshuvah*, in Hebrew – for the real estate mogul and Republican presidential front-runner.

"*Teshuvah* is not a quick thing," Pesner told me during a break in the recent American Israel Public Affairs Committee policy conference, held in Washington. "But we'd like to see real *tikkun* here," he added, using another Hebrew word that suggests repairing what's broken.

If I have trouble picturing this, it is because of the gaps in language between the two camps. Reform's Religious Action Center, which Pesner heads, speaks the language of carefully crafted public policy and carefully chosen words of Torah.

Trump speaks – well, Trump.

AIPAC's single focus

Asking Trump to make *teshuvah* is a category error, much like asking AIPAC to speak in the language of the prophets when it comes to anything other than securing a safe Israel and a strong U.S.-Israel alliance. AIPAC isn't a synagogue or a denomination. It is a single-focus organization whose focus happens to be one of the central elements of many Diaspora Jews' Jewish identity: supporting Israel from afar.

The strengths and challenges of that single focus were on display before and during this year's annual conference, held March 20-22. The strength could be seen in the sheer fact of pro-Israel power and influence represented by the conference, a gigantic affair that sprawled across Washington's huge convention center and into its basketball arena. It could be seen in the roster of political grandees who came to pledge allegiance to Israel. And it could be seen in the enthusiasm of the 18,000 delegates who packed the Verizon Center, rushed to dozens of "breakout" sessions devoted to all things Israel, and then headed to Capitol Hill to woo their legislators on aid to Israel and keeping the Palestinians from seeking statehood outside the framework of peace talks.

Critics call AIPAC "right-wing," but that doesn't capture the diversity of its supporters. No doubt AIPAC has a core of big givers and vocal activists who vote Republican, abhor anything that hints at pressure on Israel and are at best suspicious of the two-state solution. They were the ones cheering the loudest when Trump, in his speech, called President Barack Obama "the worst thing that ever happened to Israel."

But for a lot of delegates, for whom support of Israel is integral to their Jewish identity, the conference is another High Holy Day, or days. I spoke to members who were appalled by Trump's speech and embarrassed by the enthusiastic reception for it, but they weren't giving up on AIPAC. Pesner told me about the large delegation of Reform Jews at the conference, including college students, teens, rabbis, and leaders – including some who are active both in AIPAC and J Street, its putative ideological rival.

Bipartisan dilemma

The challenges of single-issue lobbying were seen in the invitation to and reception for Trump. In the days before the event, various rabbis and activists demanded that AIPAC issue some kind of statement condemning Trump's most incendiary – and in their view, un-Jewish – positions. But AIPAC officials reminded them that, in the interests of bipartisanship and the U.S.-Israel alliance, AIPAC can't afford to be as discerning as many would like, either politically, spiritually or ethically.

"Bipartisanship is the only way to make stable, sustainable policy from one election to the next," said Howard Kohr, AIPAC's executive director, in the state of the lobby address.

There are pressures on AIPAC to abandon this bipartisanship. Critics of the Trump speech – and those made queasy by the lobby's cozy relationship with pro-Israel but deeply conservative Evangelicals – think a Jewish organization must stand up for a wide range of values, not just support for Israel. There is even more pressure from the right, whose activists and donors are convinced that the future of support for Israel rests with the Republican Party. They are no fans of bipartisanship when a Democrat like Vice President Joe Biden tells them that Israel's "steady and systematic process of expanding settlements, legalizing outposts, seizing land, is eroding, in my view, the prospect of a two-state solution." Or when Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential front-runner, defends the Iran nuclear deal, telling them that it has made "the United States, Israel and the world safer."

In apologizing to those offended by the loud ovation given to Trump's remarks excoriating Obama, AIPAC's new president, Lillian Pinkus, essentially defended bipartisanship from attacks on both sides.

"We are disappointed that so many people applauded a sentiment that we neither agree with or condone," Pinkus told delegates. "Let us take this moment to pledge to each other that in this divisive and tension-filled political season, we will not allow those who wish to divide this movement from the left or from the right to succeed in doing so."

Observers like me left the Verizon Center wondering what it says about AIPAC when the Democratic front-runner gets a rousing ovation, and the ever-more-likely Republican nominee gets perhaps an even more ecstatic reception. You could say that in any crowd of 18,000, you can find loud supporters on both sides. Or that under the rules of bipartisan lobbying, you cheer the ideas you agree with and ignore the ones you don't.

As this crazily unpredictable election unfolds, however, the very premise of single-issue advocacy is going to be tested as never before.

2016 AIPAC an experience

BY MARTY COOPER
mcooper@jewishallianceri.org

The AIPAC 2016 Policy Conference was my first. I was not sure what to expect other than knowing that the list of speakers read like a Who's Who of the Washington, D.C., establishment, plus a guy from New York City. This included Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump, Ted Cruz and John Kasich, as well as Vice President Joe Biden and Speaker of the House Paul Ryan.

With some 18,000 people attending this highly organized spectacle, it was difficult to get from one venue to another, including the D.C. Convention Center and the nearby Verizon Arena. At times it felt like we were being herded like cattle, due in part to the highly justified security situation.

The conference itself had dozens of break-out sessions, on topics ranging from Israeli beer tasting to the upcoming U.S. elections and Iran. Presenters during these sessions were authorities on their topics. Needless to say, attendees came away with a lot of useful information.

With so many people attending the conference in such large venues, we relied upon several large projected screens so we could see the speaker – he or she looked like an ant from afar. I found it inspiring to be a part of such a large crowd.

The conference included time for networking with colleagues and meeting new people. The discussion always centered on Israel.

Going to Washington would not be the same without a visit to Capitol Hill. Our group met with Rhode Island's Rep. Jim Langevin as well as staff of Rep. David Cicilline and Sens. Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse. (Both Cicilline and Whitehouse were in Cuba and the Senate was in recess). Issues discussed included Iran, in particular its current ballistic missile tests and sanctions, plus the need for direct peace negotiations with the U.S. not the United Nations, as the facilitator,.

All in all, the conference met the hype and expectations.

MARTY COOPER is the Community Relations Director for the Jewish Alliance.

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.

LETTERS

Re: Speaking out

As a child, I was always taught that our rabbis were the voices of our community. I have always believed, that our individual rabbis, as well as our Rhode Island Board of Rabbis, have an obligation to speak out publicly on social issues such as immigration, gay, rights, same sex marriage and other important issues affecting our community.

What troubles me now as an adult, is the apparent public silence of our rabbis on the slaughter of innocent Israeli-Jewish civilians, as well as American tourists – both Jewish and Christian, by Arab fanatics.

Why is there no public outrage at the Palestinian leaders who repeatedly call these murderers "heroes and martyrs" and call for more such atrocities? Vice President Biden publicly stated that the United States "condemns these attacks and condemns the failure to condemn these attacks."

Why is there no public outcry from our rabbis over the firing of Iranian missiles bearing the Hebrew words "Israel must be wiped out"?

If our rabbinic voices in Rhode Island remain publicly silent, who shall we look to in order to express the voices of our community?

Judge Howard I. Lipsey (ret.)
Lincoln, R.I.

Re: Ruth Gruber (March 4)

Professor Yoken's excellent, riveting article on Ruth Gruber brought back good, vivid memories of when she spoke in Providence more than a decade ago.

Briefly my family and I thoroughly enjoyed reading Yoken's article, which managed to outline the life and work of a unique and extraordinary woman.

We look forward to more of the same high-quality articles in future issues of the Jewish Voice.

Betty Cohen
Providence, R.I.

Although Mel Yoken wrote a lovely article about Ruth Gruber, I am compelled to correct him on a few facts.

Ruth brought over 982 souls from Italy, and they were definitely not all children.

My mom, Tina Korner, her parents, Schewa and Solomon Korner, and two older sisters, Mina and Regina Korner, were among those who came on the Henry Gibbons. Mom was 22 at the time, her sisters were 32 and nearly 35 and her parents were 60 and 64. And there were many others above the age of 18. Certainly there were children, but they were not the majority.

My mom passed away in 2013. Mom has me, her granddaughter and great-grandson as her descendants. We are ever grateful to Ruth Gruber for all her efforts.

I had the pleasure of escorting my mom to meet her at Brown University. And both my daughter and I went with my mom to see her at University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth.

Very best regards to Mel Yoken for writing the story. And to Ruth Gruber, I send my love.

Cindy Halpern
Centerport, N.Y.



PHOTO | R.I. JEWISH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Beck family in 1939 in the backyard of their Stadium Road home.

R.I. Jewish Historical Association's annual meeting highlights the early East Side

BY JOSHUA JASPER

Rachael Rosner, of Boston, will be the guest speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association, on Sunday, April 17, at 2 p.m. at Temple Beth-El, in Providence. The meeting is free, and all are welcome.

Rosner will discuss the founding of Temple Emanu-El and the early Jewish community on the East Side through the stories of the Beck and Temkin families. Her talk is titled, "Illuminating the 'Golden Ghetto': The Beck and Temkin Families and the Early History of the Jewish East Side of Providence."

The "Golden Ghetto" is a phrase from a sermon that Rabbi Eli Bohnen, of Temple Emanu-El, gave in the early 1970s about Providence's East Side.

The talk will be based on Rosner's forthcoming biography of Dr. Aaron Beck, the creator of cognitive psychology, titled "Beck's Basement." Rosner states that she has two purposes in her talk: first, to share information she has found about the early history of Providence's Jewish community, and to "offer an opportunity for people to contribute their memories, reflections and corrections." This is the second of two talks that Rosner will present about Beck; she is scheduled to speak April 1 at the Providence Athenaeum.

The 2016-2017 Board of Directors will be voted on during the meeting. Harold Foster will be the new second vice president.

The sixty-second Annual Meeting is sponsored by the Arline Ruth Weinberg Memorial Fund.

For more information about the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association and its annual meeting, contact Joshua Jasper at 401-331-1360. The office and library, with its extensive archival collections, is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

JOSHUA JASPER is the new librarian/archivist of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association. He has a master's degree in library and information science from Simmons College, in Boston.

Buds, blossoms and spring renewal this month of Nisan



PATRICIA RASKIN

The month of *Nisan* is the first month in the Jewish calendar, which coincides with March-April on the civil calendar. The Torah calls the month of *Nisan Hodesh ha-aviv*, the month of spring.

The word *aviv* means spring, the time when the physical and spiritual messages of rebirth meet and blossom. The word *Nisan*, meaning "blossoms of redemption," is technically an Aramaic word, related to the Hebrew word nitzan, meaning bud. In "Song of Songs," King Solomon's epic poem symbolically refers to this as "the time that the buds were seen in our land." Aish.com discusses how years later, buds had begun to blossom on the first of *Nisan* when the Jews of the Babylonian exile began their return to Israel.

As I sit here writing this, it is about 60 degrees outside, and I am outside on a very beautiful and spacious patio listening to the birds loudly chirping their songs, seeing the buds beginning to bloom and getting sun on my face and back. In this beautiful and serene setting, I especially appreciate the beauty of the season, nature and all that God has created.

This is also the time leading up to Passover, when we begin to think about or get a head start on the process of getting rid of all *hametz*, meaning leaven, or food mixed with leaven, in preparation for the holiday. We are spring cleaning our homes with a purpose that has its origins in biblical times.

For me, cleaning out the old is cathartic. I especially like giving away what I am no longer using since I feel I am helping others. I also feel a sense of renewal and spiritual freedom from this process.

Ruth Ross, author of "Prospering Woman," states the prosperity law of releasing: "We must get rid of what we don't want to make room for what we do want." For me, in addition to cleaning, this means going through boxes that hold memories and emptying all those drawers of accumulated stuff.

What I have learned during this process of shedding and releasing is to honor my past achievements but let go of what doesn't serve me anymore and replace it with something special that meets my current needs, so that I can move in the present flow of life.

This spring cleaning, whether for religious, spiritual or emotional health, can give us all a sense of renewal and encourage us to do our own internal housekeeping. A good way to start is to sit outside and listen and watch all that nature around you. Then go inside and start releasing the old to truly make way for the new!

PATRICIA RASKIN hosts "The Patricia Raskin Show" on Saturdays at 4 p.m. on WPRO, 630 AM/99.7 FM. Raskin is a board member of Providence's Temple Emanu-El.

Authors brunch April 10 at UMass

NEW BEDFORD, MASS. – The Claire T. Carney Library Associates will present its 10th Annual Authors Brunch to be held at UMass Dartmouth's Woodland Commons on Sunday, April 10, at noon. The event will feature Anita Diamant, Peggy W. Fellouris, Alex Kershaw and Joyce Maynard. Dr. Mel Yoken, who organized the event, will host.

Anita Diamant, who was a guest speaker at the Jewish Federation of R.I., is an author of non-fiction and fiction. Her first novel, "The Red Tent," was a New York Times bestseller along with her latest novel, The Boston Girl." She is also the author of several books based on her Jewish faith.

Peggy W. Fellouris is a former family therapist and divorce mediator who has authored several books. Her latest book, "Three Boys and a Boat," was listed by the New York Times Book Review under the heading Unforgettable Stories.

Alex Kershaw is the author of the New York Times bestsellers, "The Bedford Boys" and "The Longest Winter." A World War II historian, his most recent book, "Avenue of Spies," tells the true story of an American doctor in Paris and his espionage efforts.

Joyce Maynard is a journalist, author and academic who is known for writing candidly about her personal life. For six years, she wrote a weekly syndicated column, "Domestic Affairs." Her non-fiction work, "At Home in the World," spoke of her romance with J.D. Salinger.

A Q&A and book signing will follow the lecture. Books by the authors will be available for sale at the brunch.

The cost of the brunch is $35. Checks can be made out to the Claire T. Carney Library Associates and mailed to Rita Raymond, 1032 Sterling Street, New Bedford, Mass. 02745.

Reservations should be made by April 3, 2016. Phone reservations can be placed at 508-995-3528.



GUIDE BEFORE GOOGLE

Check your Guide to Jewish Living for all things Jewish.

Ongoing

Alliance Kosher Senior Café. Kosher lunch and program every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Noon lunch; 1 p.m. program. $3 lunch donation from individuals 60+ or under 60 with disabilities. Neal or Elaine, 401-338-3189. THIS IS A NEW VENUE AND PHONE NUMBER.

West Bay Kosher Senior Café. Kosher lunch and program every weekday. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. 11:15 a.m. program; Noon lunch. $3 lunch donation from individuals 60+ or under 60 with disabilities. Steve, 401-743-0009.

Through April 3

Spring Mixed Show. Gallery at Temple Habonim. Encaustics and oils by Nancy Whitcomb; underwater photography by Neil Greenspan; and a mural by Religious School students. Hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment. 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. For information, call 401-245-6536. gallery@templehabonim.org.

Sunday | April 3

"The Return." Joanne Forman Film Festival. Temple Beth-El. 2 p.m. Four young Polish women discover their Jewish roots and embark on a quest to understand their identities. Discussion with filmmaker Adam Zucker follows. Refreshments. 70 Orchard Ave. No charge.

"Paper Clips." West Bay Havurah. 2-3:30 p.m. Tamarisk Assisted Living. Special screening of award-winning 2004 documentary about students at Tennessee's Whitwell Middle School's paper clip project. 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. Call Mark Sweberg for more information, 401-243-5010.

Temple Torat Yisrael Torah Sprouts Program. 9 a.m. Introduction to Judaism program for pre-school children includes song, dance, stories and arts and crafts. Information, call 401-885-6600.

Adult Education at Torat Yisrael. Passover cooking with hands-on demonstration. 9:15-10:30 a.m. Information, call 401-885-6600.

Wednesday | April 4

DEPOSIT DUE. Bus trip to Lower East Side of NYC. June 5. 7 a.m.-11 p.m. West Bay Havurah. Private three-hour tour and Kosher Greek lunch at Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue, unchanged since being built in 1927 by Romaniote Jews from Janina, Greece. Bus departs from Tamarisk, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. Total cost is $93. Deposit $50 with balance due May 2. Call Mark Sweberg for information, 401-248-5010.

Miriam Hospital Women's Association Open Meeting. 11 a.m. Pelvic Floor disorders, problems that are difficult to talk about, even with your doctor. Dr. Leslie Roth, colorectal surgeon and Dr. Janic Santos-Cortes, urologist. Miriam Hospital. Call 401-793-2520 for more information.

Tuesday | April 5

Yoga class. 6-7:15 p.m. Torat Yisrael. Cost is $12 for drop-ins, $30 for three classes paid in advance. Information, call 401-885-6600.

Thursday | April 7

Double Chai Society Lox & Learning. 8:15-9:30 a.m. Providence Marriott Hotel, One Orms St. Dr. Jeremy Goodman, executive director, the Roger Williams Park Zoo, will speak at this Double Chai Society event designed to give the next generation of Jewish leaders up-close and personal exposure to decision-makers and trailblazers. Breakfast will be served. Free and open to all community members from 30s to 50s who give a gift of any amount to the Jewish Alliance Annual Campaign. (Members of the Double Chai Society are between 30-50 years old and give a minimum of $360 to the Alliance Annual Campaign.) For more information or to RSVP, contact Hillary Schulman at 401-421-4111, ext. 127, or hschulman@jewishallianceri.org.

Israeli Settler and Palestinian Peace Activist speak. 7:30 p.m. Brown University, Macmillan 117. Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger and Ali Abu Awwad will tell their personal stories and talk about how they helped create Roots/Judur/Shorashim, the Palestinian Israeli Grassroots Initiative for Understanding Nonviolence and Transformation. 167 Thayer St. Free. Co-sponsors include J Street Rhode Island and the Community Relations Council of The Jewish Alliance.

Friday | April 8

Israeli Settler and Palestinian Peace Activist speak. 7 p.m. Temple Beth-El, Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger and Ali Abu Awwad will tell their personal stories. See April 7. 70 OrchardAve. Free. Co-sponsors include J Street Rhode Island and the Community Relations Council of The Jewish Alliance.

Sacred Rhythms and Chants with Reb Mitch Gordon. 7 p.m., Congregation Agudath Achim, 36 Winthrop St., Taunton, Mass., A rhythmical chanting and drumming Shabbat experience. Mitch is the founder of RHYTHM is LIFE and is a drummer, percussionist, teacher, conductor, producer, radio host, and adjunct faculty at Hebrew College. Bring an open heart and a hand drum (or use one of our own). Co-sponsored by Boston's Jewish Arts Collaborative. Contact Rabbi/Cantor Anne Heath at 508-822-3230 or email rabbiheath@verizon.net . Photographers welcome. Free and open to all (not handicapped accessible, yet). In order to manage attendance we ask that you please visit jewishtaunton.com to register.

Friday Night Live. Musical celebration of Shabbat at Temple Torat Yisrael. 6 p.m. Rabbi Philmus plays guitar, accompanied by the Torat band. There's no cost to attend the service. Dinner following services: Adults and children over 12, $20, 12 years and younger, Free, Family Max, $60. Call 401-885-6600 for dinner reservations.

Saturday | April 9

Israel Settler and Palestinian Peace Activist speak. 11 a.m. Temple Beth Sholom, Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger and Ali Abu Awwad will tell their personal stories. See April 7. 275 Camp St. Lunch panel follows. Free. Co-sponsors include J Street Rhode Island and the Community Relations Council of The Jewish Alliance.



Janice and Pacho at the event in "The Age of Love," showing April 17 at 2 p.m. at Tamarisk in Warwick.

Murder Mystery dinner. 5:30-10 p.m. Temple Sinai. Jewish teenagers in grades 8-12 from local congregations, and from Massachusetts and Connecticut are invited. The cost for dinner and theater is $22 per person. 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. For more information please contact Adam at craftyrhodeisland@gmail.com

Sunday | April 10

"The Consul of Bordeaux" in Portuguese with English subtitles. 11 a.m., doors open at 10:30 a.m. Running time: 90 minutes. Avon Cinema. 260 Thayer St., Providence. General admission: $8.50; Free with Brown ID. Directed by João Correa and Francisco Manso (Portugal, 2011), "The Consul of Bordeaux" is based on the true story of Aristides de Sousa Mendes, who saved 30,000 people from Nazi persecution by issuing visas for safe passage to Portugal during WWII, defying the direct orders of his government. Sponsored by Brown RISD Hillel and the Brown Portuguese and Brazilian Studies Department.

"Next Year Jerusalem." Joanne Forman Film Festival. Temple Beth-El. 2 p.m. Eight residents and staff of an American senior living community undertake a transformational trip to Israel. Discussion with Mike Fink, RISD professor, follows. Refreshments. 70 Orchard Ave. No charge.

Adult Education at Temple Torat Yisrael. 10:30-11:45 a.m. Journey to the Heart of Judaism with Rabbi Philmus.

Tuesday | April 12

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Philmus. Noon. T's Restaurant in East Greenwich at Participants order from the menu. All are welcome!

Women's Community Seder. Temple Beth-El. 6 p.m. Kosher-style Seder dinner for women of all faiths and girls 8 years and older. Portion of the registration fee is donated to HIAS, a global Jewish nonprofit, for its work to help protect Syrian refugees. Cost is $36. Information, call 401-331-6070. Contact liz.sinel@gmail.com with questions.

Wednesday | April 13

West Bay Havurah Guided Tour of Clouds Hill Victorian House Museum. 1-2:30 p.m., 4157 Post Road, Warwick. Clouds Hill Victorian House Museum is located on the Warwick estate formerly known as Cedar Hill, and dates to 1872. The main mansion is a large Gothic Revival structure, designed by architect William Walker, and is one of his few surviving large-scale residential designs. Containing many examples of high quality Victorian-era workmanship, the estate was occupied by four generations of the same family. Converted to a museum in 2004, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2014. Tour is one hour. Admission $12 adults, $10 seniors, cash only, payable at the door. Accessible to the first floor; those who can't climb stairs may view a video of the 2nd floor. Optional lunch/dessert afterward at Main Street Coffeehouse in East Greenwich. Call Ellen Gourse at 401-921-3309 to register.

Exploring the Arts: Pottery Making 101. 6-8 p.m. Dwares JCC. Have you ever wanted to learn the basics of using a pottery wheel? Interested in brushing up on some old skills? This is a one-time pottery wheel crash course to learn the basics of wheel-thrown pottery and a night of hands-on art and learning. No experience necessary. Ages: 16+. Price: $25 | Members: $18 (Includes all supplies. Pre-registration required.) For more information, contact Erin Moseley, director of Arts & Culture, at emoseley@jewishallianceri.org, or 401-421-4111 ext. 108.

Thursday | April 14

Rabbi Susan Silverman reads from "Casting Lots." 7 p.m. Silverman is an activist with Women of the Wall and sister of comedian Sarah Silverman. This is her memoir of adopting from Ethiopia. Books on the Square. 471 Angell St., Providence.

Friday | April 15

PJ Library Story and Play Time with "Bubbie Sara." 10-11 a.m. Dwares JCC. Spend some time with us twice a month to hear stories, play games and make new friends! We will read various PJ Library books and sing songs about different Jewish holidays throughout the year. Children will also be able to make a craft. All children ages 5 and under are welcome. For more information, contact Sara Foster at 401-421-4111, ext. 130, or sfoster@jewishallianceri.org.

Saturday | April 16

Kids' Night Out: Flat Fun. 5-10 p.m. Dwares JCC. Kids' Night Out is a chance for children to spend the evening with their friends in a fun and safe environment and a great opportunity for parents to have a night out "kid free!" Once a month on Saturday evening, children are entertained with a variety of themed activities including sports, crafts, swimming and more. A pizza dinner and snacks will be served, and the evening ends with a movie. Ages: 5-12. Price: $35 | Members: $25 | Siblings: $15. For more information or to register, contact Shannon Kochanek at 401-421-4111, ext. 147, or skochanek@jewishallianceri.org.

Sunday | April 17

Jewish Culture through Film: "The Age of Love." 2 p.m. The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. An alternately poignant and funny look at the search for love among the senior set, follows 70- to 90-year-old speed daters – recently widowed, long divorced or never-married – as they prepare for the big day, endure a rush of encounters, then anxiously receive their results. Fearlessly candid about themselves and what they're seeking, these WWII babies are forced to take stock of life-worn bodies and still-hopeful hearts. Then, as they head out on dates that result, comic and bittersweet moments reveal how worries over physical appearance, romance and rejection, loss and new beginnings change – or don't change – from first love to the far reaches of life. Running time: 78 minutes. A discussion led by the film's director, Steven Loring, follows. This event is free, and all are welcome. Space is limited; pre-registration is encouraged. For more information or to pre-register, contact Erin Moseley, director of Arts & Culture, at emoseley@jewishallianceri.org, or 401-421-4111, ext. 108.

Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association Annual Meeting. 2-4 p.m. Temple Beth-El. Rachael Rosner speaks on "Illuminating the 'Golden Ghetto': The Beck and Temkin families and the Early History of the Jewish East Side of Providence." Free, with light refreshments following the speaker. For more information contact Joshua Jasper at 401-331-1360.

Men's Club/Sisterhood Breakfast at Temple Torat Yisrael. 9 a.m. Speakers will be two Israel Soldiers (Iliana & Ital). This program is sponsored by StandwithUS. Donations welcome.

Tuesday | April 19

PJ Library Story and Play Time with "Bubbie Sara." 3-4 p.m. Dwares JCC. Spend some time with us twice a month to hear stories, play games and make new friends! We will read various PJ Library books and sing songs about different Jewish holidays throughout the year. Children will also be able to make a craft. All children ages 5 and under are welcome. For more information, contact Sara Foster at 401-421-4111, ext. 130, or sfoster@jewishallianceri.org.

DEPOSIT DUE. Cranston Senior Guild will attend a 2 p.m. matinee performance of Cole Porter's Tony award-winning musical "Anything Goes" May 19 at the Ocean State Theatre, 1245 Jefferson Blvd, Warwick. Cost per person is $34. Deadline to reserve is April 19. For more information call Sunny at 401-785-0748.

Wednesday | April 20

Touro Fraternal Open House. 6:30 p.m. Bryan Morry, executive director of the Patriots Hall of Fame, will speak. Learn about Touro's trademark Harmony, Friendship and Benevolence. Reservations, 401-785-0066 or info@tourofraternal.org.

Cranston deli showcases traditional Jewish soul food

BY CYNTHIA BENJAMIN

While Jewish delicatessens are closing across the nation, Rhode Island is fortunate to be bucking the trend.

Rudy's NY Style Delicatessen opened in August in Cranston, at 961 Dyer Ave., and word has spread quickly – already, lunchtime regulars crowd the 24-seat restaurant and people desperately craving matzah ball soup, or an overstuffed tongue sandwich on rye, have traveled here from as far as Randolph, Massachusetts, and Cape Cod.

Owners William "Billy" Rudacevsky, and his daughters, Alisha Rudacevsky and Audra Mena, understand the pull of traditional Jewish food for those who were reared on it – and that's partly why they opened Rudy's.

The family – accomplished cooks, all – wants to preserve the recipes handed down from Rudacevsky's mother, Goldie "Bubbe" Rudacevsky, which were handed down to her from her mother.

So, Audra makes the creamy chopped liver and crispy potato kugel and potato latkes. Alisha makes the golden noodle kugel, and does most of the baking, from hamantashen to rugelach, pistachio chocolate chip cake ("to die for") and pies. Rudacevsky's wife, Nancy Lee, makes the potato salad and coleslaw. Most of the meats are cooked daily onsite, but the pastrami is imported from New York City, as are the blintzes, pickles, and knishes. Rainbow Bakery, in Cranston, ("Home of the best rye in R.I.") supplies the breads.

Rudy's offers breakfast, salads, soups and sandwiches all day, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The simple menu features such classics of Jewish cuisine as bagel, lox and cream cheese, Hebrew National salami, and corned beef. Sandwiches are piled high with more than one-third pound of meat – but if that's not enough for you, ask for a double portion. There are also daily specials, such as lox, eggs and onions, and kasha varnishkes. And if you don't see what you want on the menu, ask, Rudacevsky says!

Rudy's also caters, and Rudacevsky says the catering menu is far more extensive than the restaurant menu. "Anything you want," he says.

As he prepares for his first Passover in business, Rudacevsky has shared three holiday recipes, to keep the legacy of Bubbe Rudacevsky – and Jewish soul food – alive.

Potato Carrot Kugel

5 medium potatoes, grated
2 large carrots, grated
2 onions, minced
1 cup matzah meal
3 eggs
1/4 cup oil
Salt and pepper, to taste
Dill and/or chives, to taste.

Combine all ingredients, mixing well. Pour into greased 9 x 12 inch baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees 40 to 60 minutes, until firm.

Beef Brisket

This recipe calls for starting the brisket the day before it will be eaten.

5 pound brisket
3 or 4 sliced onions
1/2 cup ketchup
1/4 cup water
1 package onion soup mix

Spread onions on bottom of roasting pan. Place brisket fat side up on top of onions. Mix ketchup, water, soup mix together and pour over roast. Cover tightly with foil. Bake at 325 degrees about 3 hours until fork-tender.



William "Billy" Rudacevsky


Alisha Rudacevsky


Audra Mena

The next day, remove fat, if desired, slice the meat and pour gravy on top. Reheat at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes.

Passover Nut Cake

6 eggs
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup Passover cake meal
2 tablespoons potato starch
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons orange juice
2 tablespoons grated orange peel
1/2 cup chopped nuts

Beat eggs well. Add all ingredients except nuts and mix well. Fold in nuts. Bake at 350 degrees 50-60 minutes in an angel food pan.

CYNTHIA BENJAMIN is an editor, writer and chef. She is a member of Congregation B'nai Israel in Woonsocket.

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Tabatchnik Chicken Broth Aseptic 32 oz. pkg. bonus buy savings 2/$4

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Tasty end to week of mushroom mania

BY ALY MILLER

(The Nosher via JTA) – For thrifty, veggie-loving cooks like me, signing up for a CSA share is the way to go. Sure, it can be a daunting investment up front, but it's often the best deal you'll find in the city for local and fresh produce. And there's always unanticipated surplus along the way.

Some weeks, there's tons of pears; other weeks, it's parsley (hello, freezer full of parsley pesto!). Last week, I found myself particularly lucky. There were crimini mushrooms that needed a home, and I was up for the task.

For one blissful week, I was in mushroom heaven, and even after mushroom quiche and tarragon mushroom stir-fry, I still had about a pound of mushrooms left. For the next dish, I wanted something festive and kind of classy. Spreadable, perhaps?

Inspired by a rich and flavorful vegan "*faux gras*" that I sampled at Brooklyn's Smorgasburg, I tried my hand at mushroom, lentil, walnut and mushroom paté. It was perfect for the dinner party I hosted, and for noshing throughout the week. Some said it was as good as any chicken liver paté or chopped liver they'd ever had.

Vegan Chopped Liver Recipe with Mushrooms and Miso

Ingredients

1 cup French lentils, cooked (you'll need 1/2 cup raw lentils)
4 cups crimini or button mushrooms (or a mix of your favorites), washed; stems and caps sliced
1/2 yellow onion, sliced
2 cloves garlic, chopped
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, more as needed
1 teaspoon dried thyme
1 teaspoon dried tarragon
1 tablespoon golden miso paste
2 tablespoons boiling water
1 cup walnuts
2 tablespoons Tamari or soy sauce, or more to taste
Juice of 1/2 lemon
1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar or white wine vinegar
Several twists of fresh black pepper
Fresh parsley, to garnish

Directions

Cook lentils ahead of time. Cover 1/2 cup dry lentils with a few inches of water and bring to a boil. Cover and let simmer for 15-20 minutes or until tender.

Meanwhile, heat 2 tablespoons olive oil in a cast iron skillet or deep frying pan. Add onions and cook until translucent and golden. Add garlic and mushrooms, and another 2 tablespoons of oil (try coconut). Sauté for 1 minute.

In a small bowl, whisk 2 tablespoons boiling water and 1 tablespoon miso paste. Add this mixture to the pan. Add herbs, and continue stir-frying for 4-5 more minutes, or until mushrooms are well-coated and tender. If you find that the mushrooms need more moisture, add a few dashes of soy sauce or more water. Remove from heat and set aside to cool.

Heat a frying pan over medium heat and add walnuts, stirring frequently. Cook for 2 minutes or until fragrant and golden. Remove immediately from the pan and let cool.

Add lentils, toasted nuts and mushroom mixture (slightly cooled) to a food processor or blender. Add soy sauce, lemon juice, vinegar and black pepper to taste. Blend until you've reached your desired consistency – I prefer it slightly chunky. You might prefer it smoother, like hummus.

You might find that your mixture needs more liquid, in which case add more soy sauce or vinegar. You may want to add a pinch or two of salt, according to taste. Scoop into a serving bowl and garnish with fresh parsley. Enjoy with crudité or crackers.

ALY MILLER was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wis., and has been living in Brooklyn for the past 3 years. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she studied human geography and lived in a lively vegan Jewish co-op. The Nosher food blog offers a dazzling array of new and classic Jewish recipes Check it out at TheNosher.com.

FROM PAGE 4

JOURNEY

with an instructor who makes every move look effortless.

Before the class began, I sized up the other participants. In my cursory appraisal, I assumed that because I appeared to be the youngest in the class, I would be the most agile and sprightly. That was my first mistake. The other participants had taken this class before and were used to the moves.

My second mistake was to wear the new fitness outfit I purchased. I didn't feel as attractive or comfortable as I did when I was posing in front of a three-way mirror. When I moved, so too did my pants. Every jump made the spandex shift and sag. Finally, nothing says defeat quicker than getting tangled up in your shirt as you lean over to touch the floor and raise one leg up to the sky.

Nevertheless, my wardrobe malfunction was the least of my worries. The class was a challenge for me. Not impossible, but there were certain positions I could not sustain for the prescribed amount of time. It did give me comfort to see the other ladies were making adjustments or accommodations based on their capabilities, range of motion or limitations.

My balance was admirable, but I had very little endurance when it came to all the bouncing. I was convinced that I had not done a jumping jack since I was in the third grade, thus I was awkward and uncoordinated. When the instructor told us to start running, I wondered if the building was on fire. Some women sprinted around the room, others lightly jogged. Me? I lumbered. The first time around I was confident I could keep up the pace. The third time



around I felt like I was moving through bubblegum. My whole body felt sluggish and heavy.

Then we did more jumping! And I was keenly aware of just how much everything jiggled. My thighs wiggled, and my arm flab waggled. Not only did my legs look like Jell-O, but when the class was over, they felt like it too.

Funny thing is, I'll probably be back next week to do it all over again.

Wine Dinner

Grilled Tuna on a stick with a mango and red onion salsa
{ Sileni Sauvignon Blanc, New Zealand }

Baby Arugala & Endive with goat cheese, mandarin oranges and candied pecans, champagne vinaigrette dressing
{ William Hill Chardonnay, California }

Veal Osso Bucco over a mushroom risotto with gremolata
{ Le Grand Noir Pinot Noir, France }

Homemade chocolate bread pudding with whipped cream
{ Louis Martini Cabernet Sauvignon, California }

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2nd Annual Hamantashen Bake Off

Friends gathered recently at the home of Mark and Cindy Feinstein for an afternoon of baking.

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Rules for a healthier life: Move, move, move

BY ALYSSA SILVA

Many people are constantly in search of something that will make them look and feel healthier: We try out the latest weight loss fads, scour the Internet for advice on healthy habits, and are willing to do just about anything to get a "quick fix." Since we live in a fast-paced society, it's no wonder we strive for rapid weight loss. Unfortunately, that's not the way it works! The only way we can get the desired results - and have them last - is by the one tried-and-true method that never fails: exercise.

Lisa Mongeau, owner of Body Soul Inspired Personal Training, of Providence, gives simple, yet important, advice when it comes to exercising: "Through every generation, absolutely, when in doubt, move," she says, advising to keep moving despite any minor aches and pains.

When we move, we stop our bodies from becoming complacent, which in turn helps prevent a number of health issues. Movement helps keep our weight under control and improves our stamina and overall quality of life.

If you are not clear on what Mongeau means when she says "when in doubt, move," she means get up off that couch! It's not about running marathons or suffering through a hated gym routine: It's about finding physical activities in everyday life that will create healthy habits. It's also about finding physical activities that we enjoy, because, Mongeau says, exercise is meant to be enjoyed. Make movement a win-win: move in a way you enjoy, which will simultaneously improve your quality of life.

So, if you aren't motivated to get up off the couch and go to the gym, find an active hobby that you enjoy, which can be just as effective as a workout routine. You could grab a friend and go on weekly hikes. Or find a local dance class that will elevate your heart rate and make you sweat a little. Or join a recreational league that will not only get your body moving, but will also help you meet and engage with new people. The possibilities are endless, and best of all, by continually moving, the results will last a lifetime.

ALYSSA SILVA is the social media manager for Body Soul, LLC.



For more information on ways to create your Jewish legacy, contact Trine Lustig, Vice President of Philanthropy, at 401.421.4111 ext. 223 or tlustig@jewishallianceri.org.

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REMEMBER THE PAST

From the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

A Rhode Islander in Havana – back in the day

BY GERALDINE S. FOSTER

The young rabbi arrived in Havana in 1933 to serve the Union Hebrew Congregation, a Reform congregation founded in 1904 by Americans living in Cuba. Although not quite 30 years old, the rabbi already had an impressive record of achievements. By age 24, he had graduated from the University of Cincinnati, been ordained as a Reform rabbi, and received a Morgenthau Fellowship for post-graduate study at the American School of Oriental Research, in Jerusalem. Those were heady days, his time in Jerusalem. He thoroughly enjoyed his studies and loved being in Palestine, despite the dangers posed by the Arab riots.

While in Palestine, the young rabbi was asked to undertake a special mission for the World Union for Progressive Judaism. The union needed someone young, energetic and multilingual, and he spoke five languages fluently. Because the request came at the behest of noted British philanthropists Sir Claude Montefiore and Lady Lily Montagu, the rabbi set aside his reluctance to leave and accepted the task.

He agreed to spend a year in Poland and Germany researching the situation of Jews in those countries.

During that year, his activities endangered his life more than once. His final report underscored the precarious situation of Jews in Poland; he also recognized the ominous threat posed by the Nazi Party. His German acquaintances discounted his fear.

He spent one more year in Europe, this time accompanied by his young wife. He had accepted a call to become the first rabbi of the newly organized Liberal congregation in Holland. The couple then returned home for a brief stay.

Home was Providence. The young rabbi was Meir Lasker, the son of Haim and Sophia Lasker. Haim Lasker, the director of the Talmud Torah of Congregation B'nai Zion, was an outstanding teacher whose philosophy of Jewish education was far advanced for the times. The young wife was Sylvia, daughter of Alter and Sarah Boyman, both active in the Jewish community and Zionist organizations. Alter Boyman's name appears as a founder on the lists of the major chartered Jewish social agencies.

The same year the Laskers arrived in Cuba, Fulgencio Batista led The Revolt of the Sergeants, an uprising at an army camp near Havana. The corrupt president was forced to resign. A five-man *junta* took over the government. A succession of presidents was appointed, but Batista, named Army chief of staff, was the actual leader.

It was a time of increasing radicalization of the spirit of Cuban nationalism and, with it, increasing anti-Semitism; sustained attacks on Jews were fueled with money and advice from the German embassy. The government tended to turn a blind eye and in some cases supported Germans, although Batista was not an active supporter.

Rabbi Lasker soon became active in the Jewish community, and his voice was heard in the larger community on radio and in newspaper articles. Each ship arriving from Europe in Havana harbor brought refugees. In addition to the Jewish agencies for which he was an advocate, Lasker developed ties with a Quaker organization to aid in resettling the refugees. He served as intermediary between the Jewish community, the Cuban government and the FBI.

The great tragedy never far from Rabbi Lasker's thoughts was the SS St. Louis. On May 27, 1939, the ocean liner arrived from Hamburg, Germany, with 930 passengers aboard. During transit, unbeknownst to the refugees, their government-issued landing certificates had been invalidated by Cuban president Federico Laredo Bru.

"How can one forget the cries, the pitiful cries for help, from those on board?" Lasker wrote. He never did. Accounts of the time tell us he worked tirelessly to get the Cuban authorities and the American consul to allow some of the refugees to enter Cuba, but he failed.

"We were helpless," he wrote, "because of the machinations both on the part of the Cuban government and our own." (Quotes cited in a eulogy of Rabbi Lasker by Rabbi Simeon Maslin, Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1993, located in the American Jewish Archives.)

Rabbi Lasker did board the St. Louis to bring ashore two passengers - two children who had died during the voyage. They were buried in the Jewish cemetery. Before he was allowed on board, he was warned not to speak to anyone, offer words of solace or conduct any religious service.

Rabbi and Mrs. Lasker left Havana in 1941 and moved to Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, where he served for 31 years as spiritual leader of Temple Judea.

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

Cranston Seniors meet

The Cranston Seniors Guild will meet **Wednesday, April 6**, at 1:00 pm, at Tamarisk Assisted Living, 3 Shalom Dr., Warwick.

There will be a short meeting. Following the meeting, Todd Hargraves will entertain with music, and sing many of our all-time favorite songs.

Following this entertainment, there will be refreshments and a raffle. All men and women ages 55 years and over are welcome to join.

You need not live in Cranston to attend or join. Come and meet other seniors and enjoy this organization that was founded in the 1970s.

On **Thursday, May 19**, the Cranston Senior Guild will attend a matinee performance of Cole Porter's Tony award-winning musical "Anything Goes" at the Ocean State Theatre, 1245 Jefferson Blvd, Warwick. The matinee is at 2 p.m.

Reserve now. The cost per person is $34. Deadline is April 19. No refunds after April 20.

For more information call Sunny at 401-785-0748.

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FROM PAGE 1

HONORING

The breakfasts were originally the idea of a former Sinai rabbi, Jerome Gurland, and were first run by Nate Sandler. When Sandler moved away in the early 1980s, the reins were passed to Horovitz, Wexler and another member, Sonny Jaffa. While Jaffa has since died, his wife still attends breakfast every week.

"We've been insulting each other for more than 40 years," said Wexler with a smile. Later, he explained, "We kid each other, we insult each other, but actually we're very, very close."

Horovitz and Wexler mentioned that in the early days of these breakfasts, they used to drive around the community and pick up people who couldn't otherwise get to the minyan. While the whole idea of breakfast started with the intent to attract the 10 people needed for a minyan, it was quickly clear that it had another benefit.

"It helped us to get a minyan, but it also got some of the seniors out," explained Horovitz.

"Definitely," agreed Wexler. "It was something to look forward to for the elderly people, like Stan," said the 88-year-old to his 82-year-old friend.

Those who came to breakfast, including Rabbi Jeffrey Goldwasser and Cantor Wendy Siegel, were welcoming and helpful. The congregants each played a part in preparing breakfast, and once it was



Donald prepares baked goods as Stanley heats up the pot for oatmeal.

ready, attendees laughed and joked and caught up with each other over a good meal.

Wexler introduced himself to me as "Monkey," with a smile, and one congregant complimentarily compared another to Mae West, to which she responded: "Are you calling me fat?!" Hands on her hips and smiling, she immediately started laughing after her question. The environment was merry, and anyone could see that this is a weekly gathering that is much enjoyed.

After breakfast, attendees sing a joyous "Birkat Hamazon" and discussed the meaning of the weekly Torah portion before participating in Shabbat services. This week's Torah portion examined *deshen* – an acronym for the Hebrew words *davar shelo nechshav* – or, in other words, the importance of treating small things as holy.

In a time when everybody is so busy that they forget to stop and smell the flowers, so to speak, the connection between the lesson from the Torah portion and the value in the kind of work Horovitz and Wexler do became very clear.

As a thank you for providing



PHOTOS | ARIEL BROTHMAN

A few congregants enjoy their breakfast.

a forum for community socializing and Judaic engagement, and for their dedication and contribution to the community, congregants will honor Horovitz and Wexler with a luncheon on April 10. While the luncheon is for the two men, they made sure to note that they could not prepare the breakfasts alone. They said repeatedly that "the girls" - a few female congregants who regularly help the duo - also make the breakfasts a success.

"It's not just the two of us anymore," said Horovitz. "It's Herb [Katz], it's the girls – they do all the shopping. They know what we need. Joan [Goralnik] picks up the baked goods so they're fresh every morning." Lois Cohen and Sherry Feldman are also regular helpers, he said.

"They're the untold heroes, really," agrees Wexler.

Usually, Wexler said, congregants come together only for special services. But the breakfasts are an exception.

"It's the only function in the temple that regularly brings people together," he said. "I'd like to think that just the fact that we have this function every week … it brings people together and makes people stronger. If they're coming, it's worth it. What I've learned and the friends I've made - it's been an opportunity."

It seems that the congregants of Temple Sinai are doing a wonderful job of *deshen* with their recognition. Sometimes it is the small things - whether it's putting on a weekly community breakfast or otherwise - that are the most holy.

ARIEL BROTHMAN is a freelance writer who lives in Wrentham, Massachusetts.

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The winner will be announced in the April 29 Mother's Day issue of The Jewish Voice.

**If you don't have access to email, please mail to: Editor, The Jewish Voice, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906*

Students hone skills – and learn plenty – by interviewing grandparents

This article was written by the seventh-grade students in Sue Oclassen's class at Temple Sinai, in Cranston.

Arthur Schoenwald began climbing the 10-foot fence to get out.

He and his friends had just finished playing basketball after hours in Prospect Park in Brooklyn, New York. The park had been closed for the night. Arthur had to get home because the next day he was going to become a Bar Mitzvah and he knew his parents did not want him playing basketball.

He scrambled up the fence. But, unfortunately for Arthur, he fell from the top of the fence to the ground, hurting his right ankle.

Arthur was in pain. But he knew he couldn't tell his parents because telling his parents would be even more painful.

The next day Arthur, trying to hide his limp, went with his parents to his temple, which also happened to be in Prospect Park. He made his Bar Mitzvah, the first Bar Mitzvah in what was then the new Prospect Park Jewish Center, and never told his parents about the injury until he confessed to his mom 25 years later, when she was on her deathbed. Arthur Schoenwald related these memories to his grandson, Chase Schulte.

This was one of the many childhood stories recently told by grandparents to seventh-graders in Sue Oclassen's Temple Sinai Sunday School class.

In conjunction with this year's project-based learning objectives, the students practiced interviewing techniques with guest author and journalist Steven Krasner, then interviewed their grandparents to gain an understanding of their lives during an earlier time, one without cell phones, shopping malls and the Internet.

An introduction to the Holocaust, through the experiences of children and survivors, followed this project. All classes at Temple Sinai are doing project-based learning activities.

Harrison Goldberg discovered that his grandmother, Laura Resende, was raised only by her mother. Her father wasn't a positive presence in her life, as he was depressed and left the family many times throughout her young life. She was the oldest daughter, so she felt it was her responsibility to help her mother. His grandmother was a very talented crocheter.At a young age, she would teach classes to earn money to feed her siblings. There was one other sister, and there were four brothers. All the other siblings died as infants or toddlers, which was common then. His great-grandmother had 15 children altogether, which included two sets of twins.

Harrison's grandmother told him that on many days, she would eat just bread with tea because there was no meat or vegetables, not even dairy. There was never enough money. Her mom wouldn't ask for help from extended family because she was ashamed that her husband couldn't provide for his family. But, even with all that, Harrison stated, "This made my grandmother the strong, kind woman she is today. I am so proud to call her my grandmother and I will make sure her story lives on for generations, because she is the reason I am here."

Dr. Martin Feldman, Marisa Pressman's grandfather, said he wasn't a religious person. He did not become a Bar Mitzvah at the age of 13. Instead, he became a Bar Mitzvah at the age of 54. When he was on a family vacation in Israel, he felt it was the right time to become a Bar Mitzvah.



Sheila, Rick and Josh Land. PHOTOS | SUE OCLASSEN



Chase Schulte uses a rotary dial telephone.



Laura Resende, Garbriela Goldberg and Harrison Goldberg.

So, with his youngest son, Andrew, he traveled to Masada, where Jews had a big battle for survival. He wanted to become a Bar Mitzvah there because he wanted to show his son how important it is to become a Jewish adult.

Josh Land's grandmother, Sheila Land, remembered being sent to her school in Providence by shuttle service when her parents felt it was unsafe to walk alone. Although they liked a Greek restaurant around the corner, Sheila's family almost always ate at home; they could count on eating "deli" every Friday night and hot dogs on Sundays.

Marsha Davida Rosenfeld, Lucy Kirshenbaum's grandmother, said she never became a Bat Mitzvah, but she went to Sunday School, High Holiday services and to Friday night services once in a while.

She said she never learned to read or write Hebrew, but she learned the religious traditions and stories. Her favorite Jewish holiday is Rosh Hashanah because she likes getting together with the family, she said. Her passion is cooking and baking. She loves seeing her family eating her food.

Lucy's grandfather, Allan Kirshenbaum, became a Bar Mitzvah at 13 at an Orthodox synagogue called Sons of Abraham. He went to Friday night and Saturday morning services every week, as well as High Holiday services. He learned to read Hebrew when he was 11, but he didn't learn how to write it. His favorite holiday is Passover because he likes seeing family eating his wife's food and being entertained by Lucy and her cousins.

Bennett Fine's grandmother said, in her day, only girls from wealthy families could become a Bat Mitzvah.

Suzanne Glucksman, Ella Glucksman's grandmother, told of parents who would hire professional dancers for big parties.

Sam Latzman interviewed his grandparents, Arlene and Morris Chorney. Morris Chorney remembered blackouts during World War II. They would have to shut off all of the lights so they couldn't be detected by enemy aircraft. Near the end of the war, he witnessed a bonfire where they hung an effigy of Adolf Hitler and lit it on fire.

Arlene talked about how her school had air raid drills. Students would go to the basement, where each class had a space. She said they would cover their heads and faces to protect their eyesight and spines. Even though the fear of getting bombed during the Cold War was real, the kids never took it seriously and used to laugh during the drills, she said.

Arlene Chorney said she loved her parents. They were very sickly. Her father had polio and couldn't walk. Her mother had Parkinson's disease. Since both parents had disabilities and couldn't work, she grew up very poor. But she became a doctor of educational administration. She was the principal at the Rhode Island Training School. She was also an English teacher. Like Arlene, Morris Chorney was a teacher. He was a science teacher at Birchwood Middle School, in North Providence, for more than 20 years. He also served in the Navy for 18 years.

Arthur Schoenwald went to Harvard and became a doctor of finance, achieving his life's goal of getting a doctorate and becoming a professor. As a professor at Rutgers University, in New Jersey, Schoenwald received tenure after only two years, winning the school's first Professor of the Year award the same year.

The interviews weren't totally devoted to Jewish upbringing. Some of the grandparents aren't Jewish. But there were many interesting stories from their memories.

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AARP State Director Kathleen Connell with R.I. Sen.Gayle Goldin.

AARP honors R.I. lawmakers for supporting family caregivers

To recognize their work to support family caregivers in Rhode Island, AARP has honored as "Capitol Caregivers" Senate President Teresa Paiva-Weed, House Speaker Nicholas A. Mattiello, Senators Gayle L. Goldin and Joshua Miller, and Representatives Eileen S. Naughton and Joseph M. McNamara. These elected officials have advanced policies to help family caregivers who are making it possible for older Rhode Islanders to live independently at home - where they want to be, AARP states.

Capitol Caregiver certificates of appreciation were presented to the legislators at State House ceremonies on March 9.

"AARP thanks these members of the General Assembly for championing passage of the CARE Act in 2015," said AARP Rhode Island State Director Kathleen Connell. "They provided integral leadership to pass the CARE Act and helped make the huge responsibilities of family caregivers in Rhode Islanders a little bit easier."

According to AARP's Public Policy Institute, at any time during the year, an estimated 148,000 Rhode Island caregivers step up to provide 142 million hours of care for an aging parent or loved one, helping them to live independently in their own homes.

They help with bathing and dressing, meal preparation, managing finances, transportation, grocery shopping and more. Today, many family caregivers even perform medical tasks like wound care, injections, and complex medication management.

The CARE Act, which went into effect in March, allows the family caregiver to receive timely information in order to better provide post-discharge care. By including the "caregiver" designation in the medical record, it shows that the caregiver is valued and it establishes an avenue by which the hospital can share important information.

The act requires hospitals to notify and alert the family caregiver if his/her loved one is being discharged or transferred to another facility. By providing the caregiver with this information, the caregiver can better coordinate and manage the transition from one care setting to another, AARP says.

The act also creates a framework for hospitals to provide the family caregiver with instructions on how to perform after-care medical and nursing tasks that the patient will need once they return home.

"Family caregivers are the backbone of Rhode Island's care system," Connell said. "And they need our support."

Ruth Bucci, of North Providence, who was a caregiver for her late parents as well as her husband's parents, believes the CARE Act will help others who are caring for a family member or loved one.

"The CARE Act will make a difference for thousands of Rhode Islanders who need guidance and support," Bucci said. "It means a lot to many, many people in the state that the General Assembly not only understands what they go through, but enacts legislation that will have lasting benefits."

Barrette exits and Bazar takes over at Jewish Seniors Agency

BY JSA STAFF

As 2015 came to a close, the Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island bid farewell to Executive Director Paul Barrette.

Barrette arrived at the JSA in 2005 after an enviable career in hospital administration. Heralded for his superlative operational and managerial skills, Barrette entered the community with great ease and commitment. Forever present at the Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, Shalom housing communities and the To Life Adult Day Center, Barrette was well known to residents, clients, staff, partner agencies and the community at large.

Judge Richard Licht, president of the JSA board at the time of Barrette's engagement, said, "Paul was originally hired to be an interim executive director but we quickly realized he had the requisite skills to lead the agency into the future, and he certainly out-performed our expectations."

Current Board President Jeff Padwa said, "Paul's financial acumen resulted in agency-wide efficiencies. Perhaps most notable was his recent role in renegotiating Tamarisk's financing with Washington Trust."

Jewish Alliance CEO Jeffrey Savit called Barrett "a staunch senior advocate whose leadership I admired. Paul's employee-centric management philosophy also served the agency well."



Susan Bazar



Paul Barrette

Barrette plans to provide health-care consulting services in the future. As spring approaches, the longtime East Bay resident will no doubt also be cruising Narragansett Bay and cheering at his grandsons' basketball games.

At the start of 2016, Susan Bazar, of East Greenwich, became the JSA's new executive director. Bazar, well known to the agency as a member of the board of trustees and a past president, switched gears from lay leader to administrator.

"I am delighted to serve JSA in this [new] capacity," she said. "With the engagement of seasoned staff, we are assessing resident/constituency needs, evaluating programs and eyeing opportunities for optimizing collaborations. With an ever-growing senior demographic, we want to be sure our housing options and services are relevant.

"Through the Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry, we are feeding those most vulnerable. Through our Jewish Eldercare of RI [JERI] outreach program, we are bringing Jewish tradition and values to those needing this connection. Identifying and serving these groups is at the core of the agency, and, though done well, must continue to be evaluated."

President Jeff Padwa states, "Susan's depth of commitment to JSA [and] senior advocacy, and longstanding involvement in other Rhode Island healthcare not-for-profits, makes her uniquely qualified to serve as executive director. Her vision is balanced by her ability to identify and execute strategy."

Savit said, "I am so thrilled that Susan Bazar is now leading JSA. Susan is a dear friend whose experience, commitment, warmth and passion will so strongly benefit not only JSA, but our entire Jewish community."

Since January, Bazar has immersed herself in a myriad of senior agencies statewide to listen, learn and serve as a JSA ambassador. She encourages inquiries, at sbazar@jsari.org.

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Access: Senior Transportation is a Living on the Edge initiative

From visits to meals, Jewish Alliance helps local seniors in need

BY HILLARY SCHULMAN

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island does more than provide access to Jewish life for our community. Did you know that, among many other things, we help those in need in our own backyard? The National Conference of State Legislatures noted in January that Rhode Island's unemployment rate is 5.3 percent, and although it demonstrates a declining trend, there are still many people in our community who need help getting by on a daily basis.

The Rhode Island Jewish community is also aging. A 2013 study by Brandeis University found that 27 percent of the R.I. Jewish community was 65 years of age or older, while only 25 percent was younger than 23 years old. Fortunately, the Jewish Alliance provides funding for two agencies that help our seniors: the Jewish Seniors Agency and Jewish Family Service.

The Jewish Seniors Agency helps the growing Rhode Island senior population to thrive and enjoy a full Jewish life. The JSA is located in Providence but has a bandwidth that reaches throughout the state. Its goal is to care for elderly Jews who are frail, poor or emotionally vulnerable, providing them with a continuum of care. Through a variety of programs, the JSA serves over 4,100 clients annually.

The JSA also helps the community by putting together an annual Purim Mitzvah Day, and is currently in the process of planning 38 mock Passover seders for seniors, which will be held at various assisted-living facilities and nursing homes.

Two JSA programs that benefit from funds raised by the Jewish Alliance Annual Campaign are The Louis & Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry and JERI, the Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island Outreach Program.

At the Kosher Food Pantry, the JSA helps alleviate the strain on Jewish families who face tough choices in a less-than-ideal economy. Kosher food is undoubtedly more expensive than non-Kosher food, and the pantry ensures that it is available to those who need it. From July 2015 to December 2015, the Kosher Food Pantry distributed 16.83 tons of food to 593 households, demonstrating the demand for Kosher food for those in our community who are struggling. Additionally, the Kosher Food Pantry delivers food to those who are homebound, making more than 950 visits in the last year.

JERI's mission is to provide a Jewish connection to Rhode Island seniors who live in their homes, nursing homes, and assisted-living facilities, or are patients in hospitals. Susan Adler, director of many of the JSA's programs, remarked, "As people age, their traditions and customs are something that becomes vital for them to hold on to." JERI prides itself on making sure that seniors have access to Jewish life: it provides countless visits to nursing homes, assisted-living facilities and hospitals, as well as programs and Shabbat and High Holy Day services. One senior expressed her gratitude to JERI in a letter that said, "Thank you very much for your card and goodies sent to me for Hanukkah.... I want to commend you for the thoughtfulness you show for senior citizens, especially at holidays. I am a resident of Scandinavian Home in Cranston. The home is a nursing facility, and there are perhaps 3 or 4 Jewish people in residence. I've just enjoyed my 98th birthday and it gives me much pleasure to see visitors …. In closing, let me say thank you again."



PHOTO | FRAN OSTENDORF

Seniors from the Kosher meal sites enjoy a Hanukkah party in December 2015 at Temple Emanu-El. On April 8, there will be a community seder at Temple Sinai.

The partnership between the Jewish Alliance and the Jewish Seniors Agency, through the Annual Campaign, helps these programs remain viable, and demonstrates the community's commitment to seniors, one of Rhode Island's largest demographics.

Jewish Family Service, in Providence, aims to sustain, nurture, and strengthen the emotional and general well-being and stability of families and individuals within the framework of Jewish traditions and values. JFS saw over 4,700 clients in 2015 – a staggering 26 percent increase from 2012. The Jewish Alliance works with JFS to help fund some of its programs, including the Counseling Center, Home Care Solutions, Kesher, Kosher Nutrition, and Case Management.

The Counseling Center at JFS provides counseling for a broad range of clients, including homebound community members. Thanks to an allocation from the Annual Campaign, the Counseling Center is able to help those who cannot afford this service.

The center assists clients with a wide variety of issues, providing desperately needed care. One mother told JFS, "My son had an accident last year and became terribly anxious. He had moved home and was having trouble going to work and was jumpy all the time. I didn't know where to turn to get help …. Now he is so much better. He still has his job, spends time with his friends again, and is looking for an apartment. I'm truly not sure what would have happened if we didn't have someone help us at that crucial time."

Along the same lines, JFS's Kesher program aids those who are in need - financially, mentally, or physically - but cannot afford or find the resources they need. Kesher is a synagogue-based program that brings social workers on-site for both immediate and long-term support for congregation members in Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. Currently, the program is active at Congregation Beth Sholom, Temple Emanu-El, Temple Torat Yisrael, Temple Am David, and Congregation Agudas Achim. One rabbi expressed his gratitude for the Kesher program by saying, "Without Kesher, I felt alone in addressing the psychosocial needs of my congregants. Now I have a partner who can help me by accessing more professional and varied services. My congregants - many of them - have seen improvements in their lives at the times they are most vulnerable. Kesher is invaluable."

Home Care Solutions at JFS offers home care through a Jewish lens, providing many observant and non-observant Jewish community members with services they could not otherwise receive. The partnership between JFS and the Jewish Alliance allows community members in low-income brackets to receive high-quality care. One client's child thanked JFS for services, saying, "Your care made it possible for [my mother] to stay in her home, according to her wishes."

JFS also provides Kosher meals with the Kosher Nutrition program, which includes Kosher meal sites and Kosher Meals on Wheels. The Kosher Senior Cafe meal sites, in Providence and Cranston, offer a hot meal and an opportunity to socialize. One senior expressed gratitude for the meal sites by saying, "I look forward to seeing my friends at the Kosher Senior Cafe every chance I get. The food is great and the company is even better."

Kosher Meals on Wheels delivers to any homebound person who needs food, regardless of financial situation. This program allows many Jewish seniors to live comfortably and Jewishly.

The Jewish Alliance's partnership with Jewish Family Service through funds raised by the Alliance Annual Campaign is crucial for the Jewish community. JFS Executive Director Erin Minior said, "The agency needs dollars to reach the most needy Jewish members in the community."

Minior added, "We are lucky that there is synergy in the missions of the Alliance and the Jewish Family Service."

HILLARY SCHULMAN is a development associate at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

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In real-life Anatevka, Ukraine's Jewish refugees build a community

BY CNAAN LIPHSHIZ

ANATEVKA, Ukraine (JTA) – At the age of 53, Sergey and Elena Yarelchenko fled their native city of Lugansk with three suitcases and moved into a wooden room in a muddy refugee camp outside Kiev.

Like hundreds of thousands of refugees from Ukraine's war-torn east, life for this Jewish couple in 2014 went from a normal bourgeois existence to a hellish struggle for survival and flight from a city that within days became the arena for vicious urban fighting between government troops and pro-Russian separatists.

But, unlike many refugees, the Yarelchenkos' story is no tearful account of rootlessness.

Thanks to one rabbi's unique project for Jewish refugees from the east, the Yarelchenkos are part of the nascent community of Anatevka, a small village that sprang into existence six months ago near the capital, where 20 families are now building a future based on *Yiddishkeit* and self-reliance.

Named after the fictional hometown of Tevye the Dairyman from the famed Broadway musical "Fiddler on the Roof" – and the iconic Sholom Aleichem short stories on which it was based – Anatevka is a tribute not only to that town but to the real Jewish shtetls that dotted Eastern Europe before the Holocaust.

Spread on a plot the size of three football fields, Anatevka features a wooden synagogue with two *mikvehs*. A rickety path made of splintered wooden pallets connects the three-story synagogue building to a dormitory-style residence with 20 apartments and a central kitchen. In the distance, there is a school, newly built from concrete, with 25 classrooms.

"Our son in Israel is pressing us to make *aliyah*, but Anatevka looks like a better option for us," said Elena Yarelchenko.

Her husband Sergey is a carpenter making a small salary in Anatevka, which is largely built from wood. As she helps prepare food for all the other residents, Elena gestures at her husband's small workshop outside the residential complex.

"Sergey's a workaholic who either sleeps or works," she said. "Do you think Israel's holding its breath for a 53-year-old carpenter who doesn't speak Hebrew?"

Between the school – the only structure in town that is not made of wood – and Anatevka's muddy access road are the fresh concrete foundations for a clinic and rehabilitation center that workers, some of them local residents like Sergey, are laying under the watchful eye of the man who created Anatevka: Rabbi Moshe Azman of Kiev.

A burly man with a bushy gray beard and a full head of hair, the 50-year-old Azman comes into the residential complex and peels off several layers of thick snowy clothing in the foyer of the building, whose design is reminiscent of a rustic ski lodge.

"It can get pretty hot in here," he notes with satisfaction at the effectiveness of the central heating system.

Working with money from his own pocket and private donors – they include the Moscow-born Kosher food supplier Michael Zelman of London and the Dubinsky family from Kiev – Azman has spent more than $1.5 million on Anatevka, which he designed not only to serve as a refugee center, but as a living, breathing community.

"Our son in Israel is pressing us to make *aliyah*, but Anatevka looks like a better option for us."

A maverick rabbi who remained influential here even when he broke with the official institutions of the Chabad movement over a contractual dispute, Azman says he is "trying to survive from day to day" because of debts he incurred while realizing his plan for Anatevka, which critics doubted would ever come to pass.

"I'm aware of the risks I've taken," Azman said solemnly, adding that he recently had to borrow money from a friend for gasoline so he could remain mobile throughout this week.

"I'm in debt to my eyeballs, but I'm not afraid because this is God's mission. Besides, each day that Anatevka is running is another day that my community lives in dignity. Builds a future. You can't put a price tag on that," he said.

To keep Anatevka running, Azman has relied on donations also from members of his own community in Kiev, whose children account for the majority of the 150 pupils attending Anatevka's school.

While residents provide much of the labor force at Anatevka, not all of them can work. Isaak Mohilevsky, an octogenarian from Lugansk who used to be the caretaker of that city's synagogue, can barely walk. But he, too, is pulling his own weight: On Feb. 29, he received the keys to Anatevka's new synagogue, which opened that day in a ceremony attended by Israel's ambassador to Ukraine, Eliav Belotsercovsky.

"When I left, I never thought I'd have another synagogue under my care," Mohilevsky said.

In its present (and unfinished) form, Anatevka is a confounding mix of novel and antiquated. The central heating system, for example, uses wood as fuel – not out of nostalgia but because it is cheaper than gasoline or gas in a country that has been under sanctions from mineral-rich Russia ever since the 2013 revolution that ousted Ukraine's pro-Kremlin regime and triggered the fighting in the east.

The wooden logs that were used to build the walls of Anatevka's synagogue and residential area are sealed with fireproof chemicals and high-tech insulation from Germany that help keep the place warm in winter.

Still, Anatevka isn't for everyone. Noisy, dirty, inaccessible and devoid of even basic amenities such as a grocery shop and postal services, it is deemed unsuitable to their housing needs by even some of the refugees involved in the project.

"I'm a city person," said Svetlana Koznitsova, a refugee from Lugansk who helps Azman run Anatevka but lives in a rented apartment in Kiev with her daughter. "I need to stay in the city and I will for as long as I can earn a salary."

In one of the first-floor apartments in Anatevka, Meshulam Kolesnik, a Web designer who was forced to leave Crimea after its annexation by Russia, is using Anatevka's fast WiFi connection to improve the website he built to solicit new donations for the project.

"I'm not a carpenter like Sergey, but I build what I can for this place," said Kolesnik, an observant Jew who lives here with his wife and has an office in the room of their two boys, 5-year-old Yitzhak and his little brother, Leib. Their colorful drawings are plastered all over the wooden interior of their room.

Kolesnik, 35, left his apartment in Simferopol last year because he had refused to trade in his Ukrainian passport for a Russian one. When his children were prevented from attending school, Kolesnik broke down and asked for the Russian nationality, but by then he was deemed ineligible because he wasn't in the country when a majority of the population voted for annexation in a referendum that was deemed illegal by the international community.

When he moved to the Kiev region, Kolesnik left behind a successful business and a central apartment in sunny Crimea. But he says he is not bitter over the loss.

"We are once again living among equals in our own Jewish community and country," he said. "And like this, I think we can face whatever lies ahead."

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SUNDAY, April 3
"The Return"
Four young Polish women discover their Jewish roots and embark upon a quest to understand their identities in the context of Poland's past, present and future.

Discussion with Filmmaker, Adam Zucker

SUNDAY, April 10
"Next Year Jerusalem"
Eight residents and the staff of an American senior living community overcome obstacles to undertake a transformational trip to Israel.

Discussion with Professor Mike Fink, Rhode Island School of Design



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FROM PAGE 1

POVERTY

nearly 14,000 seniors in fiscal year 2014. While feeding community members of all ages, a majority of the clients receiving food from the pantry are seniors, said Susan Adler, director of the To Life Center Adult Day Services, Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, and the Kosher Food Pantry Program. Adler noted, "We have people who've come in who've lost their job or are just getting Social Security, or they're working but not getting enough money."

The Kosher Food Pantry, at 100 Niantic Ave., is open Tuesdays and Fridays, and delivers food on Fridays.

The need, across all R.I. communities, is staggering. Each month, 60,000 Rhode Islanders go to a R.I. Community Food Bank site for food. More than 19 percent of those receiving services are age 60+, according to a January 2015 report. Some 8.8 percent are age 60-64 and 10.5 percent are age 65+.

Those seeking assistance are more likely to be women, mirroring statewide indicators showing the gender gap in senior poverty.



The negative impact of food insecurity on seniors is well-documented. Feeding America, a national anti-hunger organization, found that seniors with food insecurity faced an "increased risk for chronic health conditions, even when controlling for other factors such as income," and were 40 percent more likely to report an experience of congestive heart failure, 53 percent more likely to report a heart attack, and 60 percent more likely to experience depression.

Adler said: "Poverty affects everyone. It affects every religion, every person out there."

Her colleagues in senior services see eye to eye on this, across religious lines. The Rev. Marie Carpenter, of Baptist Eldercare Ministries, agreed with Adler, adding, "It's across neighborhoods." Indeed, Rev. Carpenter noted, poverty may not always be visible, particularly for seniors: "You've got women living in beautiful houses who are living hand-to-mouth."

Hidden poverty

Rev. Carpenter works with churches where seniors, especially women, struggle with inadequate funds for basic needs even in places many do not recognize as poverty-impacted, such as Block Island. (On Block Island, property values have increased dramatically from the time some senior residents first purchased or built their homes. Some elderly women still live in these now highly-valued homes but receive only very small Social Security checks, leaving them struggling to pay their bills even in the midst of an affluent community.)

Temple Sinai's Rabbi Jeff Goldwasser also voiced his concern: "Too many people – Jews and non-Jews – think that poverty isn't an issue in our community. But that's just not true. I see it in Jewish seniors who would love to come to temple services and events, but who don't have the money to spend on transportation. I see it in the wonderful people who dine with us at our Senior Kosher Cafe, some of whom depend on a regular, low-cost meal. Poverty may be hidden in our community, but it is real."

Rabbi Goldwasser's concerns for the community have moved him to action. Recognizing the widespread worry about transportation costs, both in and beyond the Jewish community, he has become an active voice in the discussion. Last November, he testified at a public hearing held by the R.I. Public Transit Authority on the future of the senior/disabled no-fare bus pass.

He noted that about a third of Temple Sinai's members are age 65 and older. Further, he pointed out that almost 14,000 low-income seniors and people with disabilities, of all faiths and backgrounds, rely on the no-fare bus passes for everyday transportation needs.

Concluding his testimony, Goldwasser stated, "As a matter of faith, today I ask you to continue the no-fare bus passes that are a lifeline for these vulnerable human beings so that we can be the kind of society that faith calls us to be."

Goldwasser, who serves on the steering committee of the Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty and on the board of the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Alliance (and, for full disclosure, of The Jewish Voice), has been a strong and consistent community advocate on senior and disabled transportation issues because he sees their direct impact.

He is not alone in his response; many in the community are speaking up and taking action. An active member of the Kosher Senior Cafe community in its Providence location, who relies on the bus pass for his daily needs, also has been calling his elected officials to voice his ongoing concern.

Bill Flynn, director of the Senior Agenda Coalition, has long advocated for seniors living in poverty, helping to empower and organize elderly Rhode Islanders to make their voices heard at the State House and beyond. The Senior Agenda Coalition, alongside the R.I. Organizing Project, the R.I. Coalition for the Homeless, the R.I. Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty and other partners, has been advocating strongly this year to maintain the no-fare bus pass option for low-income seniors and people with disabilities.

The collective community outcry – including the voices of many seniors, people with disabilities and faith leaders across the state – pushed the proposed $1 increase down to 50 cents.

But meetings that the R.I. Organizing Project held with seniors throughout the state to discuss the proposed fare increase have yielded heart-wrenching stories and the realization that for many seniors even a 50-cent increase is impossible on budgets already stretched desperately thin.

Organizers continue to work through legislative and executive channels to try to stop the increase before its proposed start date of July 1.

Seniors helping seniors

Nonetheless, Flynn said, "Even with the best of government programs, it's going to take a lot more of people helping each other out." Specifically, he cited the need for younger seniors to provide support to older seniors, and to explore cooperative support arrangements. Whether that's through volunteer ride-sharing programs, such as the one run by Friends in Service to Humanity (FISH), or cooperative living arrangements, he emphasized that with the swelling numbers of senior Rhode islanders, both government support and community collaboration is needed.

The aging wave of baby boomers means there will be many more seniors soon, Flynn noted. People 65 years and older comprise 14.4 percent of Rhode Island's population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 figures, and that percentage is growing. Projections from Feeding America suggest that, across the United States, there will be twice as many older adults in 2040 as in 2000.

Kathy McKeon, of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence, provides presentations and training on elder issues in the state. She observes that we need to start nuancing our thinking when it comes to both the meaning of senior identity and who is considered economically vulnerable. A senior who begins retirement financially secure may significantly struggle in his or her later years, she notes.

"When we talk about aging, we often lump 60 to 105 together, and someone might be doing well at 60 but lives to 95 and can't manage anymore. … All of us are at risk because you don't know what will happen to you over the course of 45 years," said McKeon.

EMILY JONES is the interfaith coordinator of the Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty.



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Read the fine print when choosing a continuing care retirement community



BARBARA KENERSON

A continuing care retirement community, or CCRC, is a retirement facility that offers housing, meals, activities, and health care to its residents. These communities appeal to people who are currently in good health, but who worry that they may need nursing care later on. The CCRC and the resident sign a contract that guarantees that the CCRC will provide housing and, typically, nursing home care, throughout the resident's life. In return, the resident pays an entrance fee and a monthly fee. When the resident dies, all or part of the entrance fee, which can be hefty, may be retained by the CCRC and the CCRC is typically free to assign the resident's housing unit to someone else.

How much you get for your money will depend on the range and quality of facilities and services the CCRC offers, and the type of contract you sign. There are several types of contracts available, including the following four common types:

- **An extensive agreement**, also called a "life care" agreement, is typically the most expensive type of contract and includes housing, services, amenities, and unlimited health-related services (including assisted living and long-term care).
- **A modified agreement** includes the same coverage as the extensive agreement, except that after a specified amount of health care is used, a resident must pay for additional health care or long-term services, sometimes at a reduced cost.

This type of agreement is typically far less expensive than the extensive agreement, because the resident must shoulder some of the risk of future long-term-care costs.

- **A fee-for-service agreement** is far less expensive than either the extensive or modified agreement, but offers little security when it comes to health-care costs. Health-care or long-term services may be guaranteed, but the resident will need to pay for them out-of-pocket.
- **A rental agreement** allows residents to rent housing, but does not guarantee health-related services, and requires that residents pay for these services out-of-pocket.

Before signing a contract, carefully evaluate the CCRC, paying attention to the following factors: entrance fees, monthly fees, insurance requirements, facilities, medical care, and the financial condition of the CCRC. Services and costs vary widely. Entering a CCRC is a big financial commitment and entails risk, so make sure you carefully read any contract before you sign, and review it with your attorney.

Entrance fees

When you enter a CCRC, you will generally pay a one-time entrance fee. Policies regarding refunds of these fees vary widely. They may be fully refundable, partially refundable when the resident leaves or dies, or refundable on a declining scale. It's important to understand if and when the entrance fee you pay is refundable, and how refunds or rebates are structured.

Monthly fees

In addition to an entrance fee, you will have to pay monthly service or rental fees. Be aware that monthly fees are often not fixed: Like rent, they can be adjusted periodically to cover additional operating costs. Make sure you understand what's included in the monthly fee you'll be paying, and when fees may be raised.

For some people, this may lead to a need for additional income or to financial hardship. Consider this possibility when planning a financial strategy for long-term care. Some CCRCs offer a financial assistance fund to help residents pay entrance or service fees – find out if this type of help is available.

Insurance requirements

You may be required to buy extra health insurance if you enter a CCRC facility. For example, the facility may require that you purchase long-term health-care insurance, a supplemental Medicare policy (Medigap) or Medicare Part B insurance to cover your short-term or long-term health-care costs. This may add significantly to the cost of living in a CCRC.

Financial condition

A CCRC's financial condition can affect everything from the services it offers to the monthly fees it charges and the quality of health care it provides. Before you sign a contract with a CCRC, it is vital that you get information from the CCRC regarding its projected revenue and costs for coming years, and obtain copies of audited financial statements (if available) for review by a financial professional.

In addition, ask if the company running the CCRC owns others, and find out how long they have been operating CCRCs. You can also ask residents how they feel about the maintenance fees they pay and how satisfied they are with the quality of service. Also consider the occupancy level of the complex: if many units are vacant, for example, the CCRC may need additional funding at some point to remain solvent.**Facilities**

You should carefully inspect apartments, cottages, or other living quarters, as well as the dining room, to make sure they are clean and suitable for you. Eat in the dining room and observe how the staff and residents interact. Apartments should be handicapped-accessible, and may be equipped with a pull cord to use should a medical emergency arise. Also, examine the safety of the facility: Do the buildings have adequate fire-prevention devices, such as sprinkler systems and smoke alarms? Do you feel comfortable with the security offered? In addition, consider other common areas and find out what transportation and activities are available. In short, determine how much you will get for your money.

Medical care

Some CCRCs provide nursing-home care at no extra cost, and some may offer residents basic health care only for no extra cost. The quality of medical care may also vary widely.

Before you sign a contract with a CCRC, make sure you understand what health care you are entitled to and who pays for it. Visit the medical facility to make sure you would be comfortable receiving care there, and, if it is a nursing home facility, that you would be willing to move there, if necessary. In addition, find out who decides when you must leave your apartment and move into the nursing home. How much say do you have in the decision?

Tax deduction considerations

A percentage of your entrance fee and/or monthly fees may qualify as a deductible medical expense for income tax purposes. This depends on whether your CCRC can document that a percentage of its overall operating expenses go toward providing you with medical care.

For example, Amelia entered a CCRC and paid a $200,000 entrance fee and a monthly fee of $3,000. When she filed her income taxes, she deducted as medical expenses 25 percent of her entrance fee and 25 percent of the total amount of monthly fees she had paid during the year, because the CCRC provided her with documentation showing that 25 percent of its expenses were related to medical care.

Tax rules for refundable deposits

If you make a refundable initial payment to a qualified CCRC, it may be considered a below-market loan. If so, you may have to include the imputed interest deemed payable to you in your gross income. However, if you or your spouse is age 62 or older, the deposit is generally exempt from the below-market loan rules that normally apply.

For more information on the tax implications of CCRCs, consult your tax adviser or financial professional.

Q & A

Q. What happens if a CCRC resident has financial difficulties and can't pay the monthly fees?

That depends on the CCRC. Read the contract; the answer to your question should be spelled out there.

Q. Can someone who is bedridden or who needs extensive personal-care assistance enter a CCRC?

Generally, CCRCs require that you be ambulatory when you enter the community. If you need a lot of help taking care of yourself, you might not be able to enter a CCRC unless it can provide some health services in your living quarters, which varies from facility to facility.

Q. Where can I get more information?

The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Communities (CARF) has a number of brochures available on its website, www.carf.org, that address what to consider when choosing a CCRC and how to evaluate a CCRC's financial condition. LeadingAge, an association of nonprofit organizations that provide services to and advocates for the aging, also offers guidebooks on its site, www.leadingage.org, that can help you compare CCRCs.

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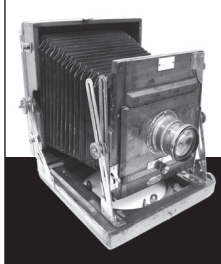
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Israeli companies to build smart city in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) – Three Israeli companies won an international competition to build a pilot smart city in Brazil to house 20,000 residents of low socioeconomic status.

The startups won a challenge to develop high-tech solutions in security, landscaping and engineering for the future city called Croatá Laguna Ecopark in the northeastern municipality of São Gonçalo do Amarante, the Brazilian Israelite Confederation announced March 28.

In most cases, the smart technology is fitted to existing cities, but the Brazilian government decided recently to try a different approach and build a smart city from scratch.

Twelve Israeli tech firms participated in the 3C Smart Cities Challenge held in Tel Aviv with cooperation from the Brazilian government; Italian group Planet Idea; the Tel Aviv University center for entrepreneurship, Startau; and the Israeli innovation center from global security conglomerate Tyco.

"Israel has positioned itself in recent years as a hub for smart city technologies, so it is natural we would take part in this unique project, which has significant impact for proving the feasibility of the technology and the vision," Tyco Vice President Ofir Bar Levav told the Israeli business news service Globes.

The winner of the competition was Magos, which is taking part in a program by Tyco Innovation. Its technology makes available for the first time high-resolution, compact security solutions with low energy consumption and a simple installation at affordable rates to civilian clients. Second-place GreenIQ develops solutions for smart management of green spaces, offering up to 50 percent savings in water consumption. Third place went to Pixtier, which develops an engineering system to build and plan smart cities.

Planet Idea operations director Gianni Savio said smart cities are urban spaces "in which the smartest and most economically sustainable technologies are designed and integrated," and are also focused on social housing, "and therefore targeting mid- and low-income levels, showing that the economical nature of a construction does not rule out its being of high quality."

Once finished, the ecopark will cover a surface area of 330 hectares and will have about 21,000 inhabitants in 6,000 homes and almost 6,800 lots, including crafts and industrial settlements. The cost of a home of slightly more than 500 square feet is expected to be about $30,000.

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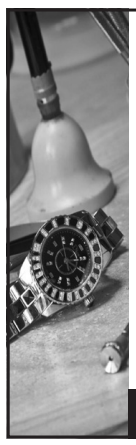
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Irene F. Blieden, 94

GREENVILLE, R.I. - Irene F. Blieden (Schlossberg), formerly Irene Viola of Cranston, has called The Village at Waterman Lake her home for the past 12 years. She passed away peacefully on March 23 with her loving daughter Toni by her side.



Born in Dorchester, Mass., she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Mary (Fladger) Schlossberg. Mother of the late Jackie Nichols of Cranston, she is survived by her son Bill Lipman and his wife Karen of Coronado, Calif.; and her daughters Gail Jacobs and her husband Benjamin of Bethesda, Md. and Toni Viola of West Greenwich. Irene was blessed with 7 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

From a young age, she was performing on the stage. Those were the days of vaudeville; Irene danced her way through life. As an adult and mother, she became a dance instructor with her brother Harris Shaw. She organized and choreographed shows for the Jewish Community Center, worked as a fashion model, was the owner of Teen Haven, a fashion boutique in the 1950s, and was a buyer for a local department store.

Her love for entertaining wasn't limited to the stage. Irene was equally talented with her culinary and decorating skills. Always an elegant hostess, she lovingly and effortlessly orchestrated unforgettable celebrations for family and friends. To all who knew and loved Irene, she will always be unforgettable.

Donations may be made to St. Mary Academy - Bay View Scholarship Fund, 3070 Pawtucket Ave., East Providence, R.I. 02915.

Marian "Miriam" Dressler

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA. – Marian Dressler (also known as Miriam) of West Palm Beach, Fla., formerly of Cranston, passed away March 18. Beloved wife of Oscar Dressler. Loving mother of Lorna, Larry and Brian. Dear sister of Anna, Abraham and Jean. Cherished grandmother of Greff, Sara Dubinsky and Steven Dressler.

She lived most of her life in Rhode Island where she raised her family. She was a member of Hadassah and a lifelong mahjong player. In her younger years, she worked as a bookkeeper and volunteered at her temple.

Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society or Salvation Army.

Lisa J. Libis, 55

WARWICK, R.I. – Lisa J. Libis passed away peacefully, surrounded by her children on March 23 after a courageous battle with breast cancer. Lisa was a graduate of Keene State College in New Hampshire, and resided in Warwick for the past nine years.

Her greatest joy was being a loving and devoted mother to her three beautiful children, Isaac, Samuel and Luciana Libis.

She is also survived by her second family, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Catano of Goffstown, N.H., their children Katherine and Nicholas Catano, the father of her children, Carl Libis and his wife Sandi of West Greenwich. She was dearly loved by her Cancer Sisters from the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Foundation, friends from the Kent County YMCA and many others who have had the joy of knowing her.

A celebration of her life will take place at Winman Junior High School in Warwick on April 14 at 7 p.m. All who have been touched by her story and life are welcome to join the celebration. Please wear pink in honor of Lisa, as she was an advocate for breast cancer awareness.

Contributions in her memory may be made to www.youcaring.com/isaac-sam-and-luci-libis-516482 to help the Libis children, or to The Gloria Gemma Foundation.

Harold Schwartz, 88

SARASOTA, FLA. – Harold Schwartz of Sarasota, Fla., and Cranston passed away on March 20. He was the beloved husband of Lillian (Newman) Schwartz for 63 years. Born in Providence, a son of the late Louis and Mary Schwartz, he had lived in Sarasota for the last 11 years, and had previously lived in Pawtucket and Providence.



Harold was the devoted father of Michael Schwartz (Cynthia) and Bobbie Friedman (Brian). He was the loving grandfather of Matthew Schwartz. He is survived by his brother Samuel Schwartz and his sisters Sylvia Mandell and Rosilyn Wetstone.

Harold was a proud CPA for many years following his graduation from Rhode Island State College (now University of Rhode Island) in 1950. He later received a master's degree in taxation from Bryant University. He was a founding partner in the accounting firm Jarcho Schwartz Yarlas and Santilli. Harold was a World War II veteran of the Coast Guard and later served in the U.S. Naval Reserve.



Among his many civic activities he was the financial secretary of Temple Emanu-El in Providence for many years.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the R.I. Jewish Historical Association, or to Temple Emanu-El.

Victor Tulenfeld, 88

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Victor Tulenfeld died Jan. 2, 2016. He was the husband of Rose (Levis) Tulenfeld. Born in Romania, the son of the late Marcu and Betty (Victorovici) Tulenfeld, he had been a resident of Rhode Island since immigrating in 1965.



Victor's first career was as an actor in the Jewish Theatre in Bucharest, Romania for 15 years until Communism forced him to leave the theater and learn a trade. He then worked as a goldsmith both in Romania and the United States. He was a member of Temple Emanu-El, an avid theater and concert goer, boater, singer and historian with a smile and a story for everyone he met. Victor will always be remembered for his tremendous love for life.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his loving daughter Roxanne L. Tulenfeld of Guilford, Conn. He was the brother of the late Frida Braunstein of Haifa, Israel.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the National Kidney Foundation, 85 Astor Ave., Ste 2, Norwood, Mass. 02062.

Joseph Sher, Holocaust survivor and tailor to stars, dies at 100

JTA – Joseph Sher, a Holocaust survivor who became a New Orleans tailor with such celebrity clients as Fats Domino and Elvis Presley, has died at 100.

Sher died March 24 at Lambeth House, a New Orleans retirement community and assisted-living facility, The Times-Picayune reported. He was the oldest Holocaust survivor in New Orleans and the leader of the local survivor community, according to the Crescent City Jewish News.

During the Holocaust, Sher was sent to several Nazi-run slave labor camps, where he was forced to build roads. Only three of 1,000 men on his detail survived the experience. Sher, his two brothers and his wife survived the Holocaust, but he lost his parents and three sisters, who died at the Treblinka death camp.

In 1949, Sher, his wife and a child born in a displaced persons camp settled in New Orleans, where he found work as a tailor, a trade he learned from his father in Poland.

Working at Harry Hyman Tailors, Sher specialized in performance clothes for entertainers and uniforms for tall hotel doormen. When the shop changed its name to Murphy the Tailor, Sher "managed dozens of employees, each working at a busy sewing machine," the Crescent City Jewish News wrote. He retired in the 1990s.

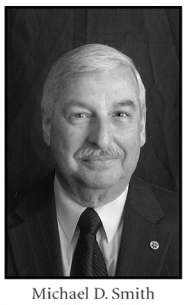
"He could take a piece of fabric from anywhere on a garment and make the garment absolutely new-looking," his son Leopold told The Times-Picayune.

A funeral was held March 25 at Congregation Anshe Sfard in New Orleans.

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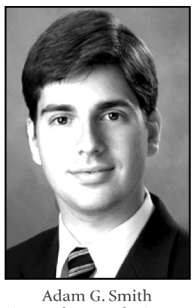
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Community seder calendar

Community seders are planned at the following temples and community centers in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts. Please contact individual sites for more information.

Conservative

Temple Beth-El of Fall River:

PASSOVER SEDER
385 High St.,
Fall River, Mass.
April 29
508-674-3529

Temple Shalom:

FIRST SEDER
223 Valley Road, Middletown
April 22,
time and location TBD
Adults $36, children 12 and under, $25
401-846-9002

Temple Torat Yisrael:

SECOND SEDER
1251 Middle Road,
East Greenwich
April 23, 6 p.m.
Adults and children over 12 $20, children 12 and under free.

RSVP online at www.toratyisrael.org or call 401-885-6600 by April 15. No late reservations or walk-ins can be accepted.

West Bay Community Jewish Center (WBCJC):

SECOND SEDER
2 Brenda Drive, Coventry
April 23, 6:30-9 p.m.
Ticket prices TBD
401-392-8452

Reform

Temple Sinai:

SECOND SEDER
30 Hagen Ave.,
Cranston
April 23, 5:30 p.m.

Temple Beth-El:

SECOND SEDER
70 Orchard Ave., Providence
April 23, 6 p.m.
401-331-6070

Non-denominational

Brown RISD Hillel:

FIRST SEDER
The Glenn and Darcy Weiner Center
80 Brown St., Providence
April 22, Time TBD
Free for students
401-863-2733

Congregation Agudath Achim and the Jewish Community House:

COMMUNITY POTLUCK SEDER
133 High St.,
Taunton, Mass.
April 27, 6 p.m.
$20, $35 for a family up to 4, $40 for a family of 5+
Contact Mija Almeida at 508-880-3068 with the name of the dish you will bring to the potluck.

University of Rhode Island Hillel:

FIRST SEDER
6 Fraternity Circle, Kingston
April 22, 6 p.m.
$15 for students and children, $25 for non-students
RSVP by April 18.
www.urihillel.org
or call 401-874-2740

A Kosher & Happy Passover B'H

2016 Holiday Schedule 5776
Remember

Search for Chometz – Thursday night, April 21
Fast or Siyum of first-born – Friday, April 22

Friday, April 22
Providence time only

Eating of Chometz:	until 10:20 a.m.
Burning of Chometz:	until 11:30 a.m.
Passover begins:	7:15 p.m.
Seder begins at:	8:20 p.m.

Passover ends: Saturday night, April 30, 8:40 p.m.

Candle lighting times for Passover 2016

Providence time

Friday, April 22	7:15 p.m.
Saturday, April 23	after 8:20 p.m.
Thursday, April 28	7:21 p.m.
Friday, April 29	7:22 p.m.

Blessings

	Blessing
April 22: First Eve of Passover	3 & 2
April 23: Second Eve of Passover	1 & 2
FRIDAY – YOM TOV, ERUV TAVSHILIN	
April 28: Seventh Eve of Passover	1
April 29: Eighth Eve of Passover	3

#1 BO-RUH A-TOH ADO-NOI E-LO-HEI-NU ME-LECH HO-OLOM A-SHER KI-DE-SHA-NU BE-MITZ-VO-TOV VI-TZI-VO-NU LE-HAD-LIK NER SHEL YOM-TOV

#2 BO-RUCH A-TOH ADO-NOI E-LO-HEI-NU ME-LECH HO-OLOM SHE-HEH-CHE-YOH-NU VI-KIYE-MONU VE-HE GE-O-NU LEZ-MAN HA-ZEH

#3 BO-RUCH A-TOH ADO-NOI E-LO-HEI-NU ME-LECH HO-OLOM A-SHER KI-DE-SHA-NU BE-MITZ-VO-TOV VI-TZI-VO-NU LE-HAD-LIK NER SHEL SHA-BAT V'SHEL YOMTOV

Special instructions for holidays (but not Shabbat).

On holidays it is forbidden to create a new fire by striking a match, lighter, etc. However, it is permissible to use a flame already burning continuously since before the inception of the holiday, such as a pilot light, gas or candle flame.

Courtesy of Chabad Lubavitch of Rhode Island
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Please do not destroy or deface this card.

JFS helps people celebrate Passover

Every year, Jewish Family Service's *Moes Chitim* (Money for Wheat) campaign helps people have a more meaningful holiday by distributing funds to be used to purchase food for Passover. The funds raised help take away the concern that an individual or family may have about not being able to have a seder or have the special foods one eats during the holiday.

Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of donors, JFS helped over 600 individuals last year, allocating more than $14,000. Funds also went to support communal seders.

Jewish Family Service earmarks these funds for individuals and families who are less fortunate than others. Support is reserved for those who are truly in need; those who would have tremendous difficulty celebrating Passover without this assistance.

Eligible individuals and families receive a gift card to a supermarket that is convenient to their home.

If you feel that your family is in need of assistance in celebrating Passover this year, or if you know of a family in need, please contact your rabbi or Jewish Family Service and you will receive the necessary paperwork. All paperwork should be returned as soon as possible.

In addition, if you are interested in making a monetary or food donation, please contact Linda Zanni at JFS (401-331-1244).

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Thursday, May 12 | 7:00pm
Sapinsley Hall, Rhode Island College
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence

Members*: $30 | Non-Members: $36
Tickets are available through the Rhode Island College Box Office
For more information, including a link to purchase tickets, visit jewishallianceri.org.

**Member pricing extends to Alliance Annual Campaign donors who give a household gift of $1,000 or more.*

Jewish Alliance OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND



PHOTOS | DENISE RUBIN

The Schechters receive their award.

Kollel's Jewish Unity Live honors Schechters

BY DENISE RUBIN

PROVIDENCE – The evening of March 27 at the Renaissance Hotel was a double hitter: Naomi and Dr. Steve Schechter were the recipients of the Am Echad award and Judge Dan Butler gave an inspiring speech on "Making the Most of a Bad Day."

Rabbi Raphie Schochet, director of Providence Kollel, introduced Rabbi Eliezer Gibber, the Rosh Yeshiva (Dean) of New England Rabbinical College. Gibber then welcomed the Schechters to the podium to receive their award. Gibber shared stories exemplifying the *chesed* (kindness) and *emunah* (faithfulness) the Schechters have shown to the Providence Jewish community. One story involved Dr. Schechter escorting Rabbi Gibber's daughter to the hospital for stitches so the rabbi could settle his guests at the Shabbat table before walking over himself.

After an acceptance speech by Schechter, Schochet introduced the evening's guest speaker, Judge Butler.

Audiences all over the world have been bowled over by Butler's personal and professional perspectives, his whirlwind delivery, gentle humor and remarkable insights into the human condition. Butler, who has five children, spoke with kindness, love and perspective about his son who died of cystic fibrosis and another son's struggles and successes with autism.

Butler's main messages revolved around three questions: How do we enhance our relationship with our people and our God? How can we be happy even in the face of adversity? What makes us unique? The underlying message Butler so elegantly wove through his speech could be summarized in one word, "*chesed*." *Chesed* or loving kindness is revealed through Butler's stories of his sons trials and tribulations with their challenges. Perhaps more revealing is how Butler leads by example, choosing *chesed* to deal with what life has delivered to him rather than bitterness and sorrow.

The evening, which was the Providence Kollel's annual Celebration of Jewish Learning, began with a dessert reception enjoyed by the guests who filled the room.



Judge Dan Butler



Rabbi Eliezer Gibber

DENISE RUBIN lives in Narragansett, is a speech language pathologist, owner/teacher at Yoga Blossoms, studies Torah with Rabbi Schochet, and is a wannabe photojournalist.

Seeing the Humanity in Your Enemy

An Orthodox Settler and Palestinian Peace Activist in Dialogue



Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger

Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger serves as the international director of Roots, the Palestinian Israeli Grassroots Initiative for Understanding, Nonviolence and Transformation, which he helped found at the beginning of 2014, bringing together Jewish Israelis and Palestinians, both Muslim and Christian.



Ali Abu Awwad

Ali Abu Awwad is a leading Palestinian activist who teaches his countrymen non-violent resistance. He reaches out to Jewish Israelis at the heart of the conflict, and tours the world to tell his riveting story of violence, imprisonment, bereavement, and discovery of his path of non-violence.

Despite living next to each other, Israelis and Palestinians are separated by walls of fear-not just fear of each other, but even of the price of peace. Roots brings the two peoples together through monthly meetings between families, a women's group, work with school children, engaging local leaders, a summer camp, language learning, and cultural exchanges.

Thursday, April 7, 2016 @ 7:30 pm - Brown University
Macmillan 117, 167 Thayer Street, Providence
Friday, April 8, 2016 @ 7:00 pm - Temple Beth-El
70 Orchard Avenue, Providence
Saturday, April 9, 2016 @ 11:00 am - Congregation Beth Sholom
275 Camp Street, Providence
Saturday, April 9, 2016 @ 8:00 pm - Masjid Al-Islam
40 Sayles Hill Road, North Smithfield
ALL EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

www.friendsofroots.net | If you have questions, please contact Judy Kaye: judykaye2@gmail.com

ROOTS שורשים · TEMPLE BETH-EL · CRC Community Relations Council of The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island · J Street Rhode Island · Congregation Beth Sholom · BROWN RISD HILLEL

Incidents of anti-Semitism at area campuses spark outpouring of support

BY JEWISH VOICE STAFF

March brought national attention to two Rhode Island college campuses for a spate of anti-Semitic incidents.

In the early morning hours on March 18, vandals scrawled graffiti described by Brown RISD Hillel as "hateful, threatening, blatantly anti-Semitic and homophobic" on the interior walls of a predominantly Jewish and LGBTQ residence hall at Brown. This was followed by a petition circulated by Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) to uninvite transgender icon Janet Mock from speaking at an event that was partially sponsored by Hillel.

Both Brown and the University of Rhode Island were among universities nationwide whose printing networks and fax machines were hacked and began spewing forth anti-Semitic messages March 24.

The specific content of the graffiti and the printed hate statements were not publicized to avoid giving more exposure to the negative messages.

In the case of the graffiti, Brown RISD Hillel issued a statement noting that those targeted have received an outpouring of support and that the graffiti elicited many statements of condemnation, including from Brown President Christina Paxson and the Brown Muslim Students Association's Executive Board.

"Quite simply, there is no place for acts like this one on the Brown University campus," Paxson wrote. "I hope that it will only lead to a more urgent and forceful cross-campus effort to build a community in which the respect for all individuals and groups is honored and upheld."

Brown's Public Safety department launched a criminal investigation, and the school immediately set up a range of support services and protections for students. In addition, Paxson joined many members of the community for Shabbat dinner and services at Hillel following the incident.

"No one should ever have to go through this type of experience. However, we hope that this incident will be as isolated as it was ugly," the Hillel statement said.

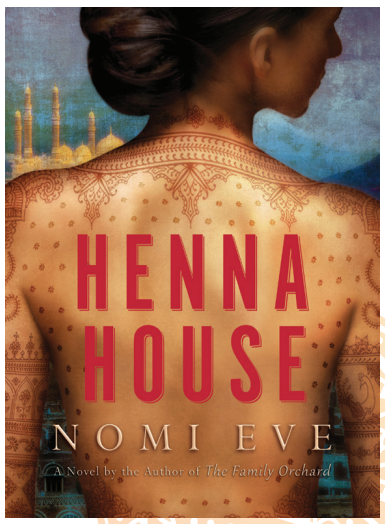
Hillel also condemned "the efforts of a small number of indi-

ANTI-SEMITISM | 30

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Event Co-Chairs Cara Mitnick & Jeanie Charness invite you to join the women of Rhode Island's Jewish community for an evening with Nomi Eve, author of *Henna House*.



Tuesday, May 24, 2016 7:00pm
Temple Beth-El | 70 Orchard Avenue, Providence

Admission: $10 plus a gift to the 2016 Jewish Alliance Annual Campaign
The admission charge will be used to assist the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's continuing efforts to ensure the rescue and safe passage of Jews living in Arab countries.

This special evening will include a Henna artist, Middle Eastern spice tasting, and desserts.

For more information or to RSVP, visit jewishallianceri.org or contact Danielle Germanowski at 401.421.4111 ext. 109 or dgermanowski@jewishallianceri.org. Kindly RSVP by May 13.

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WE ARE READ – Ellen Jordan, president of Temple Sinai, is catching up with her reading in the Bahamas.



Congressional Art Competition 2015 Winner from Rhode Island – Nature's Elegance by Kalyn Carley.

Cicilline accepting congressional art competition submissions

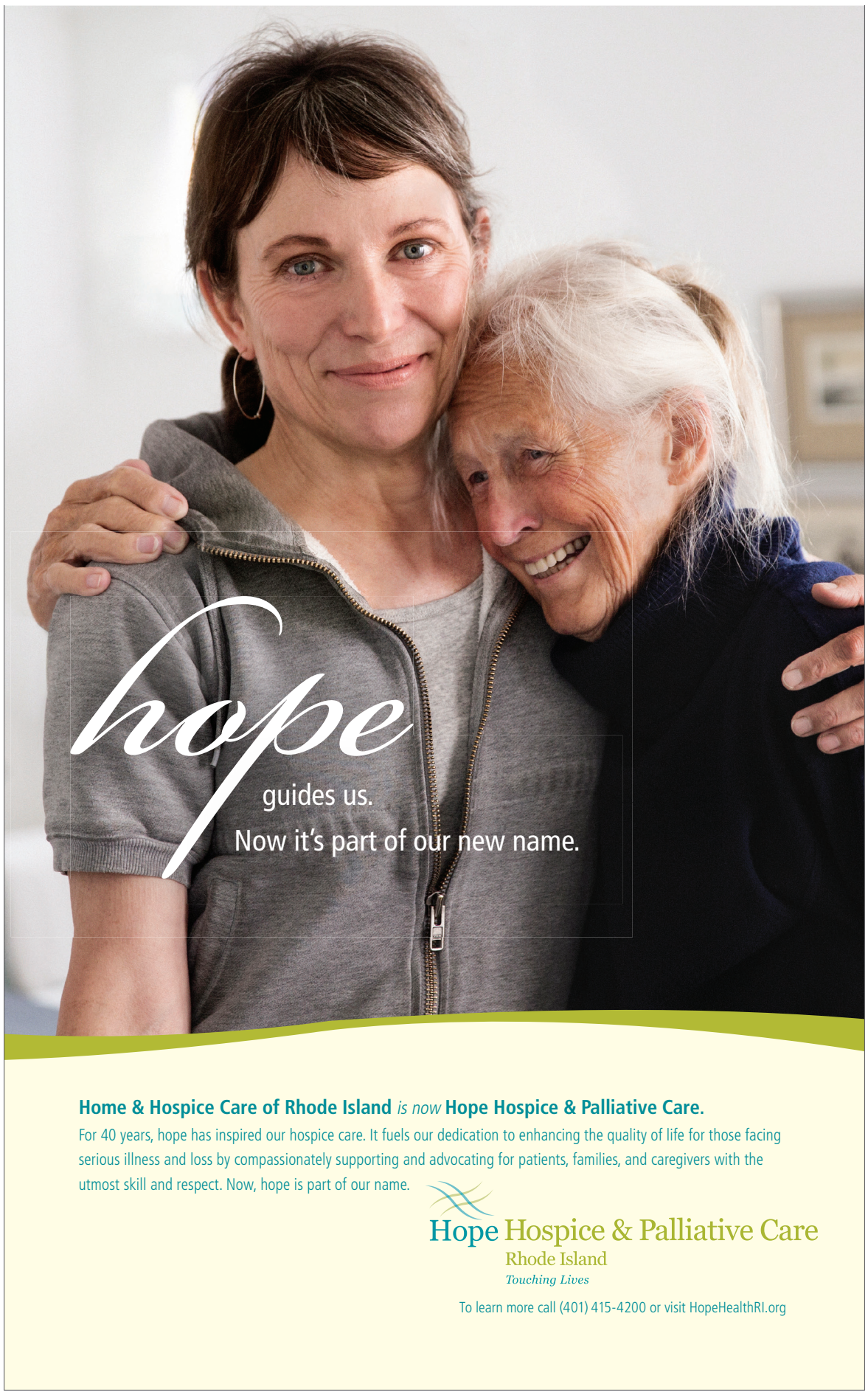
Rep. David N. Cicilline's office is now accepting submissions for the 2016 Congressional Art Competition in Rhode Island's First Congressional District.

"I'm proud to be hosting the 2016 Congressional Art Competition for Rhode Island's First Congressional District. Rhode Islanders have always treasured the arts and the humanities, and I know that all of us are looking forward to celebrating a new generation of Rhode Island artists in this year's competition," said Cicilline, a member of the Congressional Arts Caucus.

Cicilline's Congressional Art Competition is open to all high school students who reside in the First District. Teachers and students interested in competing in the 2016 Congressional Art Competition should contact Lisha Gomes at 401-729-5600. Submissions can be dropped off by Friday, April 15, to Cicilline's office, located at 1070 Main Street, Suite 300, in Pawtucket, between the hours of 8:30am and 5:30pm.

Cicilline will convene a panel to award first, second, and third place awards, and the overall winner of the competition will have their artwork displayed for one year in the United States Capitol and will receive complimentary airline tickets to travel to Washington, D.C. The exhibit in Washington will also include artwork from other contest winners nationwide.

The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. Since then, over 650,000 high school students have been involved with the nationwide competition



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FROM PAGE 28

ANTI-SEMITISM

viduals" who denied hundreds of people the opportunity to hear from and interact with Janet Mock, a prominent speaker on LBGTQIA+ issues, solely because Brown RISD Hillel was a principal sponsor of the event.

In a petition posted online, the Students for Justice in Palestine asserted that Mock's values regarding transgender issues are in line with Israel's "pinkwashing" strategy: SJP claims Israel embraces the LGBT community to deflect attention from its mistreatment of Palestinians.

The petition further asserted that any sponsorship from Hillel should be regarded as immoral since Hillel supports Israel, whose government, SJP stated, supports "ethnic cleansing … of native Palestinians" and "anti-African violence," among other things.

While the petition was eventually taken down from the website where it was posted, the damage had been done: Mock, a TV host, best-selling author and advocate for trans women, canceled her appearance.

Her representatives stated, "We feel the focus of Janet's work was lost leading up to the proposed event, and her visit was received with controversy and resistance rather than open dialogue and discussion …."

Moral Voices, a student-led group run through Brown RISD Hillel, had extended the invitation to Mock to speak. The group responded to the petition by saying, "There is no place on a college campus for this type of prejudice. Brown RISD Hillel has no less right than does any other student organization to bring speakers to campus."

Hillel said in its statement that it "deeply appreciates the support we have received from the community."

"Rather than divide us, those who sought to silence or stigmatize us have instead strengthened our resolve to work together."

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AccessJewishRI.org **401.421.4111 ext. 411**

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Nutrition & Food Assistance:
Find resources to put food on the table for your family.

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300 The Alliance Annual Campaign funds more than 300 programs & services locally and globally.

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YOU HAVE
THE **POWER**
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Contribute to the Annual Campaign and you're helping to care for our entire Jewish community—at home, in Israel, and around the world.

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Jewish Alliance
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

2016 Annual Campaign