the JEWISH VOICE

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WELCOME BACK!

2016 Olympics: 7 Jewish American Olympians to watch in Rio

BY GABE FRIEDMAN

JTA – There are athletes, and then there are Olympic athletes. And then there are Jewish Olympic athletes.

When the 2016 Summer Olympics open Aug. 5, we'll of course be cheering the American athletes – all 555 of them – and we'll be rooting for Israel, too, which this year is sending its largest ever cohort to Rio.

But we're saving a special shout-out for some of the Jewish-American Olympians who have given the Tribe extra reasons to be proud this year. (Interestingly, Jews make up about 2 percent of the U.S. population – and by our calculations, they're represented by nearly the same proportion on Team USA.)

Here are seven Jewish American athletes we're expecting to make waves in Brazil.

Aly Raisman (Gymnastics)

At the 2012 London Olympics, Aly Raisman quite possibly became the most popular Jewish athlete in the world when she won a floor gymnastics gold medal while performing to "Hava Nagila." She didn't stop there: Raisman brazenly noted the 40th



Aly Raisman

anniversary of the massacre of 11 Israelis at the 1972 Munich games to reporters after her performance – the International Olympic Committee declined to recognize the killings by Palestinian terrorists.

Alas, four years is an eternity in the gymnastics world. At 22, Raisman is nicknamed "Grandma" by her teammates

OLYMPICS | 16

Holocaust education, anti-BDS legislation among year's legislative wins

BY MARTY COOPER

The continuous ringing of bells was heard throughout the Statehouse on Jan. 5 to signal the opening of the Rhode Island General Assembly's legislative session. Legislators began formulating their agendas, often after listening to their constituents. Advocates and lobbyists also began meeting with legislators to propose bills and resolutions. Soon, hearings were held with testimony from those for and against the proposed laws.

A similar process began at our nation's capital in January as the 114th Congress began its second session. It would be a busy but not very productive session.

As in previous years, the

LEGISLATURE | 10



FUN AT J-CAMP

Campers in the newspaper group at summer J-Camp recorded some of the daily activities at camp. Above, they caught the Israel culture group. At right, the therapy dog paid a visit. And they found some creepy crawlers. See more of their work in the Aug. 19 Voice.





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THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE

"Everybody deserves to be remembered."

Island congregation restores beloved Torah

BY GLORIA S. REDLICH

In the early 1980s, a handful of Jewish residents of Block Island came together to realize a shared idea: to hold Sabbath and High Holy Day services.

Initially, they met informally at each other's homes throughout the summer months, but then organized as Congregation Sons and Daughters of Ruth.

The group is fortunate to have two Torahs – a large one donated by the late Justin and Joan Abrams and their family, and a smaller one from the late Haida Ginsberg.

The Torah from the Abrams family has come to constitute a spiritual home for congregation members, especially since they have continued without a building. (For many years, St. Andrew Church has offered the congregation its Parish Center as a home for Shabbat and holiday services.)

The Abrams family has continued to care for and house the Torah, which is carefully taken out during the Jewish High Holy Days each autumn. The smaller Torah is used for weekly Shabbat services.

A mission of Torah rescue

Several months before he passed away, in March, Justin Abrams had suggested the Torah be repaired, and the congregants immediately took up the challenge.



PHOTO | GLORIA REDLICH

Sofer Neil Yerman as he first pores over and begins to evaluate the damage to the Torah.

The group located a sofer (Torah scribe), Neil Yerman, artist-in-residence at the Sinai Free Synagogue, in Mt. Vernon, New York. Yerman is a master of Hebrew calligraphy and document restoration, and is knowledgeable in the traditions governing the writing and restoration of Torah scrolls.

The immediate mission for members of the congregation became to escort the Torah to Yerman for evaluation, a process Justin Abrams and his family generously underwrote.

Full disclosure: This writer is a congregant and was half of the delegation designated to accompany the Torah to Mt. Vernon, along with congregation President Sherry Kandel.

So it was that on an afternoon in early December 2015, we

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Shabbaton is made possible in part by a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation.

New England native joins Emanu-El community as rabbi

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

Providence has just gained a new multitalented resident: a rabbi who is also a performing arts lover and new mother. Rabbi Rachel Zerin, 29, has recently returned to New England to start her first full-time rabbinical position at Temple Emanu-El in Providence's East Side.

After completing a master's degree program earlier this year, Zerin started at Temple Emanu-El on July 1. While it's her first full-time gig, her resume is long and geographically diverse; her experience spans four continents and four – now five – states within the United States.

Zerin, who has always had an interest in both religion and music, got a joint-degree in both at Syracuse University. "I'm not formally trained as a cantor, but as a singer, I enjoy the cantorial aspects of Jewish leadership," she explains.

Having acted in a number of plays in her youth, Zerin was attracted to Emanu-El's music and arts programming. Her degree also includes a concentration in interfaith dialogue, an interest which Zerin says goes back to her formative years in North Billerica, Massachusetts.

"In some ways I think the groundwork was really laid in my upbringing. My parents' friends, my friends who weren't Jewish – they would often come with me to synagogue. I went to church. There was a lot of interfaith activity going on," she says.

Zerin went on to explain how a somewhat sticky situation in college ended up leading to her pursuit of interfaith dialogue at the college level.

"It was kind of an accident," she started with a smile. Her decision to become Shabbat observant during college, she said, made dorm living a little difficult until she opted to live on an interfaith floor. She



Rabbi Rachel Zerin

then pursued alternative spring break opportunities that promoted interfaith activities and dialogue, including a trip to Turkey with visits to multiple religious institutions and community centers to do interfaith work.

Upon completing her bachelor's degree in 2009, Zerin went to the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, Israel, where she studied Talmud for a year. This was a crucial turning point in her life, as it's where she met her husband Sam and fell in love with Talmud.

"And I had a nice apartment there, too!" she adds.

Then it was onward to the Big Apple to simultaneously pursue two degrees: a master's degree in Talmud and a rabbinical ordination at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. This was also a crucial turning point, as it's where she and Sam had their first child. Ezra was born in 2015 during Passover.

"I was parenting full time, doing my master's degree during his naptimes," she says with a laugh.

New York, says the rabbi, was where she found a sense of community and belonging. "I wish I could have transplanted my whole community," she says. "If there was an emergency, [I had] half a dozen numbers of people I can call."

Now, she is very excited to come back to her New England roots and to become a part of Temple Emanu-El's community.

"I am really excited to be working with a lot of young people and young families. Certainly my own process of becoming a young mother and a parent is making me aware of ways that the Jewish community can be there for you," she says.

She is also looking forward to community organizing with other communities in the area, Jewish social justice work, and combining with them her passion for Jewish text and ritual.

"It's the chance to connect with people. We celebrate together, we cry together, and we're there for each other. That's what community means. I've been blessed enough to experience that and I want that for others," she says. "And to don my superwoman costume and save the world."

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

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2016 | 2017
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Cranston family hears the call of Judaism, converts

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

The Jewish people are not known for aggressive efforts to spread the Jewish faith; most people who are Jewish were born Jewish. But what about those who Judaism speaks to later in life?

The Kane family, of Cranston, can tell you all about it.

Meet Jayson "Jay" Kane, a 36-year-old nurse practitioner, and Kim Kane, a 36-year-old paramedic. Kim comes from a Catholic family that, she says, didn't seem to have a particularly spiritual connection to their religion. Jay describes his upbringing as non-religious, but says he always had an interest in Judaism. He says this became especially true after he spent some time working in the famously Jewish Boston suburb of Newton.

Together, with three of their four children, Jay and Kim converted to Judaism in December 2015. The couple says that one of the things that attracted them to Judaism was what being Jewish will mean for their kids.

"The bigger thing is that we're both giving something to our children that we didn't have," said Kim.

While the idea of conversion was in the air for some time, the family's turning point was in the fall of 2014. Jay and Kim were discussing taking an introductory class to Judaism, but before they could enroll, Jay went into cardiac arrest. He was in a coma for two months. It was a trying time for Kim and the rest of the family, and when medical staff asked Kim if she would like any pastoral support, she asked for a rabbi.

Jay says that this experience, with Rabbi Carol Glass at Rhode Island Hospital, was what really set the conversion in motion.

"When I awoke … we spoke at length about what I wanted to do," Jay says. "From that conversation, I decided to look into the class." Coincidentally, the class at Temple Beth-El, in Providence, started a few short weeks after Jay woke up, and Jay and Kim enrolled.

The couple said the things they learned in the class about being Jewish reflected beliefs that they already had; the class provided affirmation. Students had a chance to meet with several rabbis from the community, and Kim and Jay felt a solid connection with Rabbi Jeffrey Goldwasser. Only later did they learn that Temple Sinai, the Reform congregation he leads, was close to their home in Cranston.

> **"We had a lot of conversations with the rabbi … it was emotionally challenging, thought provoking stuff."**

Rabbi Goldwasser gave Kim and Jay assignments, including written assignments on their conversion and what called them to Judaism, and generally mentored and supported them through the conversion process.

"We had a lot of conversations with the rabbi," Kim says of the process. "Raising Jewish children, what will family think, what it'll be like … it was emotionally challenging, thought-provoking stuff."

Kim and Jay say their three young children, 3-year-old Jacoby, 7-year-old Zackary, and 10-year-old EmmaLyn, quickly took to the idea of being Jewish.

"They integrated very smoothly.… From the start they were like, 'We're Jewish.' They just took it on as their identities," said Kim. And in the way of true *mensches*, Kim and Jay say that the kids make a valiant effort to add to *tzedakah*.

While their three youngest children converted, their eldest, Michaeyla, has not. Kim and Jay decided that Michaeyla, 17, should be allowed to explore Judaism on her own timeline.



PHOTO | KANE FAMILY

Back row, left to right, Rabbi Jeffrey Goldwasser, Jayson and Kimberly Kane, Cantor Wendy Siegel. Front, Zackary, Jacoby and EmmaLyn Kane.

"She's come to synagogue several times, and has volunteered with the youth group," Kim said. "We began our journey at a time when she's finding out who she is as a person, so it was a lot to ask of her to find herself spiritually. … She is beginning to understand the process in a way that suits her."

Kim says the family will continue to be a spiritual role model for Michaeyla, and that she can choose whether to become Jewish whenever she feels ready.

The whole process took a little over a year, ending with the final step in their conversion on December 16 at Mayyim Hayyim, in Newton. After a preparatory cleansing, Jews-to-be are led into an immersion pool, or *mikveh*, where a rabbi, cantor, and witness are present. According to Kim, the group was very supportive.

"You could hear them cheering outside the door," she said with a laugh.

Since their conversion became official, Kim and Jay say it has been smooth sailing into the Jewish community.

"It wasn't a transition; it was just automatic," explains Jay. "It was just like, 'we're Jewish now, and these are my peeps!'"

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

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Alperin family legacy lives on at Jewish Federation Foundation – and yours can too

BY HILLARY SCHULMAN

More than six decades ago, community patriarch Max Alperin, along with others, saw the need to create a financial institution that would uphold Jewish values and be accessible to the entire community. With this in mind, they created the forerunner to what is now the Jewish Federation Foundation (JFF) to ensure that support for the Rhode Island Jewish community would continue in perpetuity.

Establishing a foundation allowed donors to invest in the Jewish community with confidence that the JFF through the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island would use their money where it was most needed.

Alperin's son, Mel, watched as his family became more and more engaged in the community, which had a great impact on him.

"It was a family involvement," he said. "My mother and father both were very active in the Jewish community and it was part of our lives as we grew up. My wife, siblings, and their spouses, are invested in many ways – some more than I am."

Mel Alperin, who lives in Providence, recalled his first experience with fundraising: "I can remember walking to temple at the start of the Yom Kippur War. It was a very traumatic experience, but to see the community rally the next day … to see the leadership really take over and to witness with pride the contributions increase in the support of Israel was my first real experience with that kind of fundraising specifically for emergency purposes."

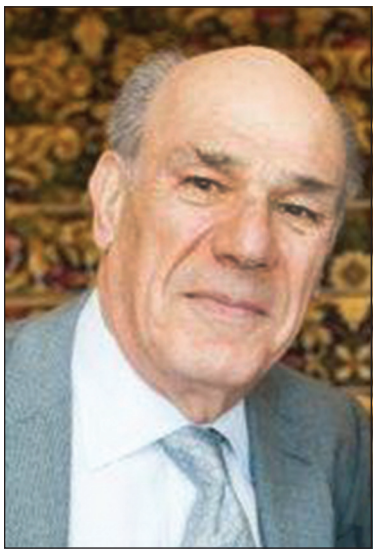
Alperin said he was also greatly influenced by distinguished community leaders like Joseph Ress and Robert Riesman.

When asked why it's important for people to be involved with the Alliance, Mel recalled something his father had said to him: "'If you are part of a community, you have to take part in that community.' "

He continued, "And that's the way I have lived my life – and still do. It's a thrill to see Jewish life continue with the support of the next generation.

"I saw as a volunteer at Federation how important endowment was for the future generations and how it would continue our charitable philosophy. So I thought that this was a great opportunity to begin to establish an endowment fund.

"And as a practical matter, I think endowments are better financially than a private foundation … when you have



Mel Alperin

an endowment, it's less expensive and you're not governed by the private foundation rules set by the IRS … it's a fund that continues, if you wish, after you pass away. You can in fact specify what services you want it to fund, and can leave it to particular agencies to carry out your charitable wishes."

Alperin's involvement with the Jewish community will live on in perpetuity through his endowment funds. He has established restricted, unrestricted, and philanthropic funds (Donor Advised Funds), all to honor people, causes and organizations that he supports.

Restricted funds are devoted to a particular purpose. The Alperin family has created one to benefit Jewish Family Service and another for the Jewish Alliance Annual Campaign. The family also has two Donor Advised Funds, which will support the Annual Campaign in the future.

While the Alperin family has established a couple of restricted funds, "because we had a particular passion," Alperin says his preference is for unrestricted funds, which is money allocated by Alliance boards to support local and global priorities.

However, he does believe that all endowment funds, whether restricted or unrestricted, are valuable.

"There is the satisfaction of giving and supporting the community that perhaps helped them or their parents in a particular manner. Certainly having participated in the community for many years, having a permanent gift is important to us.

"I'm very impressed by the fact that the Jewish Federation Foundation has almost $50 million in endowment from 630 funds, and is growing very nicely as this generation plans for the future, creating a lasting family legacy. This is why I think everybody should consider taking care of the future of our community to the extent that they are able.

"Speak to the people at the Jewish Federation Foundation and they'll make sure your wishes are fulfilled long after you're gone."

Mel Alperin – community member, leader, philanthropist – has watched his family build something that will benefit the local Jewish community forever, and he urges others to create a Jewish legacy too.

Setting up a fund

Trine Lustig, vice president of philanthropy at the Alliance, helps people consider their giving options and can be reached at tlustig@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 223.

The minimum amount to establish a permanent endowment fund with the Jewish Federation Foundation is $10,000, while the minimum dollar amount to establish a Donor Advised Fund is $2,500.

HILLARY SCHULMAN is a development associate at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. Contact her at 401-421-4111, ext. 127, or at hschulman@jewishallianceri.org.



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The Three Weeks



RABBI MARC MANDEL

On the Jewish calendar, this is the time of year that we observe the Three Weeks. The Three Weeks are anchored at the beginning by the fast of the 17th of Tammuz, and at the end, by the fast of *Tisha b'Av*. During the Three Weeks, we remember and mourn the destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem, and the exile of the Jews from Israel.

It is very interesting to note that much of the literature and prayers during the Three Weeks focus on the importance of charity. The Torah readings on both fast days emphasize how, as a people, we can be redeemed through charity.

Who are our role models that can teach us how to do charity?

Does that seem like a foolish question? To do charity, we should just do charity. But, it's not really that simple. We live in a complex world, and in order to be successful at anything, we must have an organized system in place, or, in reality, nothing significant will really take place. Yes, even our giving of charity needs to be done in an organized and efficient matter. So, who are our role models? Sometimes, our best role models are right in our own backyard.

When I moved to Rhode Island a few years ago, one of the first things I noticed in our own backyard, was the roll out of a new project by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island called, The Living on the Edge initiative. I was intrigued by that title. What did they mean by living on the edge? Did it have something to do with the fact that Rhode Island was surrounded by water? Gradually, as a member of the board of rabbis, I started to learn more about this important project, and I even participated in helping to execute the project.

The Living on the Edge initiative seeks to understand and assist those Jewish families living in Rhode Island that face economic challenges. As a rabbi, I was very moved by the first recommendation of the initiative, which states the following: "To teach the Torah of giving and receiving help." I was very impressed, that not only did the leadership of our community want to improve the lives of all its families, but it wanted the Torah to be a major part of that process.

What better way for our community to observe the Three Weeks than to make sure that we are on board with this important initiative. By studying and understanding, and participating in the goals of this initiative, we are helping our community, and the Jewish world, move toward redemption during this pivotal time on the Jewish calendar. May we all merit to see a strong and unified Jewish people speedily in our time.

RABBI MARC MANDEL is the rabbi at Touro Synagogue in Newport.

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The power of words in our political campaigns



PATRICIA RASKIN

I am a student of words. Words are critical in my work and I use them carefully. Words have great impact, and I have experienced words that "burn in my brain" long after they have been uttered. Actions do speak louder than words, but words are often the gateway to actions.

I was an avid watcher of both the Democratic and Republican conventions and was struck by several politicians from both parties who used their entire speech to bash the opposing candidate. Nothing was said about what the party can do to move forward.

I have never seen this level of name-calling and character-bashing. This is not about taking sides, this is about the use and abuse of free speech that hurts all of us. The negative energy produced by this rhetoric delivers darkness and more negativity.

On the other hand, I was enlightened by several speeches at the conventions that brought me feelings of pride and joy and lifted me up. These talks centered on unity and working together. Personally, for me to feel hopeful, I have to know that there are concrete ways and actions to move us in a positive direction.

At Chabad.org, in an article titled "The Price of Free Speech," Rabbi Jonathan Sacks asks, "Why is the Torah so severe about *lashon hara*, branding it as one of the worst of sins? Partly this has deep roots in the Jewish understanding of God and the human condition. Judaism is less a religion of holy people and holy places than it is a religion of holy words.... One sign of how seriously Judaism takes this is the prayer we say at the end of every *Amidah*, at least three times a day: "My God, guard my tongue from evil and my lips from deceitful speech. To those who curse me let my soul be silent; may my soul be to all like the dust."

Rabbi Sacks concludes, "Despite everything, however – despite the Torah's prohibition of gossip, despite its stories about Joseph, Moses, Miriam and the spies, despite the unparalleled strictures against evil speech by the sages – *lashon hara* remained a problem throughout Jewish history, and still does today. Every leader is subject to it."

We are fortunate to live in a country where we have freedom of speech. That is one of the hallmarks of freedom. But when it goes too far and speech becomes a weapon to demean, undermine and destroy, it hurts us all by dampening our spirit, and that is dangerous. Our spirit is what keeps us alive, thriving, and moving forward.

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.

Candle Lighting Times

Greater Rhode Island

August 5	7:38
August 12	7:29
August 19	7:19
August 26	7:08





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A trip down memory lane



EDITOR

FRAN OSTENDORF

I am often asked by readers about my summer plans. After all, The Voice takes a publishing break during July.

Usually, I avoid the question. The paper may be "on vacation," but we are still at work. This is our catch-up time. And this is when we put together The Guide to Jewish Living, our annual directory of all things Jewish in this area (look for it in the Sept. 30 Jewish Voice).

But this year, I took some time to visit with family. I went on a little trip and learned a lot about one branch of my family, and I even met some cousins I hadn't known about. It was exhausting, but interesting and satisfying. I think it's the start of a more in-depth exploration of my ancestors.

My family's roots are in Pittsburgh, although most of my living relatives are scattered across the country. Several weeks ago, I accompanied my aging parents on their annual visit to the area. This was a trip down memory lane for all of us. I have Orthodox, Conservative and Reform relatives who are buried in different cemeteries around Pittsburgh. My folks visit each summer, and I've accompanied them before, but this year, there were more stories, and I paid closer attention.

I was amazed at how intact neighborhoods remain, as well as how my mother remembers each place that her mother lived and the places my mother lived as she grew up. Each apartment building and house still stands. My grandparents married in the early 1920s; the first two places where they lived are not only still apartment buildings, but they still look good. My mother remembers all the family events, important and not-so-important. As we drove down this street and that, I learned where everyone lived, both friends and family.

I've always been impressed by people who know the extensive history of their family. I have the interest, but I've never really had the time to do a lot of research. I have quite a few old family photos, and each time I come across them, I have more questions. Unfortunately, many of the photos aren't labeled.

Reconstructing the identities of the people in those photos isn't easy. And I have to admit to being sloppy at writing down what I have found out. What's worse, I'm guilty of not labeling the photos I've taken through the years.

Not any more.

Since taking this trip, I have a new appreciation of how hard it is to identify photos of relatives who passed away years ago. I now realize how important it is to label our pictures.

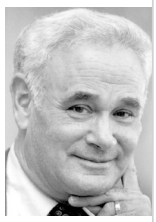
Now, I will write down as much as I can - and put it in a safe place, where I won't forget it or lose it.

My mother has always been the keeper of our family history. She remembers who lived where and who those strange faces in those old photos might be. She remembers the family stories told by her grandparents and the aunts, uncles and cousins.

As the eldest child, it's now my turn to keep track of our family's living history.

It's important for every family to keep its history alive. I'm going to do my best to honor my family going forward by keeping track of where we've been.

A happy beginning, a less than happy ending



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

A month or two ago, my wife Sandy and I viewed on Netflix the 2015 movie "Woman in Gold." The film is based on the true story of Maria Altmann, a World War II Jewish refugee from Vienna who, as an elderly widow living in Los Angeles, decides to sue the government of Austria.

Altmann demands the return of a Gustav Klimt gilded portrait of her aunt, Adele Bloch-Bauer, that had been hanging for 60 or so years in Vienna's Belvedere Palace, with the title "The Lady in Gold." This is a painting that many Austrians have prized as their nation's equivalent to France's "Mona Lisa," despite the fact that the Nazis had stolen it from Altmann's family.

Over the course of several years, Altmann, brilliantly portrayed by the British actress Helen Mirren, fights what appear to be insuperable legal, financial and physical odds before at last winning title to the portrait of her aunt.

What made "Woman in Gold" so satisfying for the two of us was the rare opportunity to witness the victory of the weak over the powerful, the all too infrequent triumph of justice.

Imagine Sandy's dismay, then, as she showed me the following headline on the front page of the Arts section of the July 16 issue of The New York Times: "Looted by Nazis, and Returned, Art is Back in Wrong Hands."

In many ways, the article that follows represents an undoing, a refutation of "Woman in Gold." In "Woman in Gold," stolen art finally winds up in the right hands; in The New York Times story, an immense amount of art stolen by the Nazis is still in the wrong hands.

According to Times reporters Doreen Carvajal and Alison Smale, in 1949, "American officials here [in Munich] entrusted more than 10,000 confiscated artworks to Bavarian authorities to return to the rightful owners, many of them Jews whose property had been plundered."

Instead, the Bavarian officials engaged in what were termed "return sales," selling the art "back" at bargain-basement rates to such individuals as Henriette von Schirach, Hitler's private secretary, and the widow of the notorious Herman Goering, a member of Hitler's inner circle.

In the words of John Graykowski, great-grandson of Gottlieb and Mathilde Kraus, some of whose looted art wound up with von Schirach, "They stole from my family, and then they gave it back to the guy who stole it from them. How does that work?"

The unsavory dealings between some look-the-other-way Bavarian bureaucrats and a number of greedy and unscrupulous art collectors is certainly bad news; the good news is that many private citizens in Germany, as well as local, state and national government officials, have been trying to right this wrong. Thus, the respected German author Ferdinand von Schirach, grandson of Henriette von Schirach, is seeking to determine the true ownership of the works of art collected by his late grandmother. He has argued, "We need to know about the evil. That's the only way we can live with it."

It was a daily German newspaper in Munich, the Sueddeutsche Zeitung, that this past June brought to light this sordid tale of "return sales" of stolen art to families with Nazi ties. As a result, Bavarian officials are now demanding an investigation of "the extent of the system to resell art to Nazi families" and asking for "a tally of how many looted works remain in government possession that can be returned to the proper heirs."

The distressing fact that families with Nazi connections still hold works of art stolen from their rightful Jewish owners should not obscure the enormous efforts that Germans of good will have made to preserve the memory of their murderous past – a past drenched with the blood of 6 million Jews. The city of Berlin, in particular, is filled with memorials to the Holocaust. It seems to me that Germany's earnest attempt to come to terms with its past, to live responsibly with painful memories, helps to explain the resurgence of its Jewish community, which currently numbers about 150,000 – including native born, a large number of Russian immigrants, and even 35,000 Israelis, the majority of whom have chosen to live in Berlin.

I applaud Germany's current efforts to rectify the misappropriation of art stolen from Jews. Nevertheless, to this very day much of the looted art still remains in the wrong hands. Until every piece of stolen art is returned to its rightful owner, "Woman in Gold" will remain a movie with a less than happy ending.

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

LETTER

Thanks to our allies in the Christian community

Jeff Gladstone's letter "Thank You Rep. Mia Ackerman" (June 24) was timely and on target. The community should also be aware that a major contributing factor to the passage of the anti-BDS bill H-7736 through the General Assembly came from several local pro-Israel Christian community groups, namely Christians United for Israel, Concerned Christians for Israel, Latino Pastors for Israel and Liberians for Israel. These groups did journeymen's work in collecting and submitting over 100 letters each to state senators and representatives, as well as formulating a signed petition to Gov. Raimondo to sign the bill once passed. In addition, they mounted a substantial telephone campaign to General Assembly members June 15-17, when the bill was on the floor of the House and the Senate.

Rep. Mia Ackerman herself has expressed her gratitude publicly, as reported in the online news site algemeiner.com. In part, she stated. "The Jewish people as a whole are totally on board with action against the BDS movement, as are many Christian groups, to my surprise. I cannot believe how many people came forward in support."

Our community doesn't have a history rich with allies, and we should always recognize those who step up in support of Judeo-Christian values, the Jewish people and Israel.

Esta Barcahona
Howard Brown
Sy Dill
Stan Freedman
Jeff Gladstone
Yuri Japhet
Russell Raskin
Barry Schiller
Ken Schneider
Roberta Schneider
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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).

Aliyah – 9 years later: Diversity, inclusion and the Jewish people



LETTERS HOME

DANIEL STIEGLITZ

July marked the nine-year anniversary of the day I stepped off a plane in Israel and became a citizen of that country. What makes this "*aliyaversary*" (*aliyah* anniversary) unique is that it's the first one that I haven't spent in Israel. There's no reason for this other than timing.

Being in your native country on the day you moved to another gets you thinking about where you began, and where you are now. For instance, a few months ago a former classmate of mine at Classical High School posted on Facebook about how Classical was ranked the most diverse school in Rhode Island. She went on to pose questions to other Classical alumni on Facebook, asking us to share our experiences with diversity at Classical, and if we felt that we just co-existed or were really integrated. The majority of those who posted publically said that they felt there was both diversity and inclusion at Classical: Diversity of race and religion, and a sense of inclusion for all who went there.

Based on my personal experiences, my response was one of the few that disagreed with the majority:

"As the only person who was an Orthodox Jew at Classical at that time, I didn't feel integrated. I still had friends but didn't feel part of the greater Classical community. Due to my strict observance of the Jewish Sabbath, I couldn't participate in any clubs and sports that included Friday night and Saturday activities, or attend social events during that half of the weekend. I couldn't even go out to a restaurant with people or eat at their homes due to my strict observance of Kosher laws. A big part of it was certainly that I was [quite shy] and had less self-confidence back in those days. Still, I certainly didn't feel integrated as the only Orthodox Jew in the school. Perhaps integration is easier when you are not the only one of your kind that needs to break into the mold."

Many of those who commented on the Facebook post agreed that college was a culture shock. Surprisingly, they found that integration was less popular than it was in the halls of Classical, and that various groups clung to those who were like them.

For me it was the opposite. I've always known that it was the lack of inclusion I felt in high school that strengthened and solidified my Jewish identity. Feeling mostly cut off from the Jewish world in high school made me yearn for and appreciate it more than ever. I was not the only Jewish student at Classical. Nonetheless, students and teachers questioned my observance since it contradicted what they had observed in many non-Orthodox Jewish students: attending school on Jewish holidays, eating non-Kosher food and participating in Saturday activities.

Following high school, I returned to full immersion in the Jewish world. It started with two years of study at a Yeshiva in Israel, and five years studying and working at Yeshiva University before my eventual *aliyah* (immigration) to Israel. While other Classical alumni apparently felt that they had lost the feeling of inclusion when they moved on to college I felt that I had finally found it. My inclusion came from being part of the school's majority population, and not a lone wolf.

Feeling excluded from the integration at Classical is probably what pushed me further away from wanting to be part of that particular inclusion. As a result, it was in high school that I discovered my love of Israel. During my junior and senior years at Classical, I spent a total of four months in Israel on four different programs. Each time I returned from Israel to the halls of Classical, I felt an even stronger sense of inclusion – not with Classical but with Judaism. Each visit to Israel reaffirmed who I really was, and where I really belonged.

As I sit in my childhood bedroom in Providence writing this article, I see more clearly than ever how I came full circle from the halls of Classical to the streets of Jerusalem. Those four years at Classical helped me to realize that while Providence will always be where I'm from, Israel is where I'm meant to be. Israel has its own kind of diversity. Within its borders is the greatest diversity of Jews from different parts of the world, as well as different customs and beliefs. It's in Israel that I, a Jew, am included in the world's greatest Jewish diversity.

DANIEL STIEGLITZ (dstieglitz@gmail.com), a Providence native, made *aliyah* in 2007. He holds a master's degree in creative writing from Bar Ilan University, is a certified life coach, freelance content writer and lives in Jerusalem. He has had two short stories published in FictionMagazines.com publications.

Five years of progress as the Alliance forges ahead with ongoing goals

BY JEFFREY SAVIT

When I arrived at the Alliance five summers ago, the institution I inherited was a merged start-up organization, one that was trying to forge ahead by maintaining the best of the programs and operations of the former Jewish Federation, Jewish Community Center and Bureau of Jewish Education. Although I discovered that many community members were experiencing tremendous mourning for the loss of these three institutions, I encountered many more individuals who were excited about the opportunity to reshape and strengthen our Rhode Island Jewish community through a more modern, 21st-century lens. With few strategic blueprints to follow, and our continued obligation to meet the needs of our stakeholders, we dug in and began our work to create a new communal model of efficiency, collaboration, caring and targeted philanthropy.

I take great pride in several initiatives that we have embarked upon during the last five years, including but not limited to the tremendously successful Living on The Edge initiative that has provided financial and non-economic resources to well over 1,200 vulnerable Jewish community members; the world-class Holocaust Memorial in downtown Providence; and the soon-to-be-completed restoration of our beautiful home, the Dwares Jewish Community Center. In addition, the David C. Isenberg Early Childhood Center, Summer J-Camp, and the Eides Family J-Space afterschool programs are sterling and dynamic. The quality of our cultural and health/wellness programs, not to mention our marketing initiatives, is strong and engaging.

Although life in Israel remains so very complex, our Israeli emissaries (*Shlichim*) foster education and understanding between and among community members at the synagogues, schools and Hillels across our state. Relationships between and among the Alliance, our partner agencies, and our rabbis/synagogues are not only collegial and respectful, but indeed harmonious. And I have had the extreme pleasure of accompanying fellow community members to places such as Moscow, Berlin, Budapest, and Afula, Israel, and I have been able to witness firsthand the impact that our community's philanthropic dollars have had on our Jewish neighbors both in Rhode Island and across the world.

I have been profoundly touched when witnessing the joy on the faces of vulnerable seniors being served lunches at meal sites, experienced pride when providing families with scholarships so their children are able to attend local community day schools and summer camps, and felt admiration for our intrepid Rhode Island teens who have journeyed on the March of the Living Program to Poland and Israel.

But, let me hold off on the *kinehoras*, because, as they say in the cliché trade, Rome was not built in a day. We have a long way to go before any of us should be satisfied. To quote someone near and dear to me, "we are a very complex ecosystem." With limited financial and human resources, a stagnant local economy, a level annual campaign that is unable to meet all the needs of our beneficiaries, there is a frustration in achieving results and effecting change as quickly as many (including myself) would prefer. We are battling a continued inability to attract our next generation of both donors and leaders, an incivility and disrespect that only grows more heated and strident across too many pockets of our community, and the senseless vandalism and violence that occurs all too often in our state, across the country and worldwide. The job of a Jewish professional is not exactly an easy one. But to steal the words of lyricist Jerry Herman, "I am what I am, I don't seek praise I don't seek pity."

I remain steadfastly honored and privileged to lead the Alliance in serving the greater Rhode Island Jewish community. No one ever said it would be easy. And as such, the challenges of leading our communal ship through sometimes choppy waters only makes the triumphs that much sweeter. Onward and upward my friends, and fasten your seat belts.

JEFFREY SAVIT is the president and CEO of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

Re: R.I. author blends history, fiction (June 24)

I appreciated Michael Fink's review of "Eavesdropping in Oberammergau." However, I would like to correct a few points.

The review quotes me as saying: "After his Kindertransport sojourn in England, he somehow, for some reason of his own, returned to Germany ... and to Oberammergau."

I would not have said this as the character of Stefan (and his historical counterpart) was an adult when he was taken to Dachau, and he would not have been on a Kindertransport, which was for children.

The article misstates that "The Passion Play" was "performed publicly throughout the 1950s, despite protests from Jewish organizations." The play was not performed throughout the 1950s. It is a play performed every 10 years since 1634 and still is.

I saw "The Play" in the summer of 1950, when I lived in Oberammergau as the child of a U.S. military officer from 1949-1952. I did not know then why I didn't like it. It took reading the books by James Shapiro and many others for me to understand why. I felt compelled to write about this village that had seemed so quaint and charming to me but no longer seemed the idyllic village of my childhood memories. As an adult, I knew how the Biblical story of the Passion of Jesus has taught contempt for Jews, leading to centuries of brutality toward the Jewish people. That the Oberammergau "Passion Play" was of particular concern to U.S. Jewish organizations after the Holocaust struck me personally.

I will be participating in a book program at the Narragansett Library on Monday, Aug. 15, at 6:30, during which I look forward to more opportunities to explore the themes of my novel.

Hilary Salk
Author, "Eavesdropping in Oberammergau"

Black lives matter to Jews

BY RABBI JEFFREY W. GOLDWASSER

The Black Lives Matter movement is controversial among Jews, just as it is for many Americans. There are Jews who are angered by racial profiling by police and incidents of violence by law enforcement officers against people of color. There are Jews who charge that the rhetoric and tactics of the Black Lives Matter movement have escalated tensions and instigated violence against police. However, there is no doubt that the phrase "Black Lives Matter" resonates with Jewish beliefs and history. Jews hear these words not as divisive, but as a call to moral action.

Our tradition stands for the ideal that every human life is sacred; that we are all created *b'tselem Elohim*, in the image of God. Every year, on Passover, we are commanded to see ourselves as if we personally had been slaves in Egypt. Every Yom Kippur, the prophet Isaiah cries to us to "break the bonds of injustice and remove the heavy yoke; to let the oppressed go free and release all who are enslaved" (Isaiah 58:6).

As Jews, we are practiced in taking the side of the vulnerable to protect them from the threats of the powerful. We identify with the downtrodden.

Identifying with the victimization of black people does not, in any way, mean taking sides against law enforcement. Jews serve proudly on police departments in Rhode Island and as officers of our courts. We identify with all who work faithfully and with integrity to protect and serve our communities. That, too, is a Jewish value. We reject the idea that black lives can be protected only at the expense of police lives, or vice versa. We stand for peace and justice for all.

While our society has addressed historic wrongs against black people, it is undeniable that inequity and racial oppression still exists. Black American men are five times more likely than white American men to be incarcerated. In Rhode Island, 7 percent of all black men are in prison. Black Americans are more than twice as likely to be shot dead by police, and black people are twice as likely as white people to be unarmed when killed by law enforcement officers.

But Jewish empathy with blacks is not just based on statistics. It is based on our own visceral experience of being hated just for being who we are. Painfully, we know what it is like to be singled out for violence. Images of smoke rising from crematoria chimneys are etched in our psyches. We have felt the trembling awareness that it was the bodies of our brothers and sisters that fed the fires.

As Jewish immigrants coming to America from the late 1800s through the 1940s, our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents faced harsh discrimination and exclusion from jobs, from higher education, and from neighborhoods. We scrambled for low-paying jobs. Our children worked long hours. We lived in poverty. All this while also suffering from horrible acts of anti-Semitism. We remember.

Jews have come a long way toward social equality in America, but we still feel heartache when we see negative Jewish stereotypes on the internet and in the media. We recoil bodily when we see anti-Semitic brutality today in Europe and the Middle East. We are sickened when anti-Semitic graffiti is spray-painted on synagogues and sidewalks here in Rhode Island. We know from our history – and many of us from our personal lives – what it feels like in our bones to be treated as "other."

When the contemporary African-American author Ta-Nehisi Coates writes that the economic and sociological oppression facing black Americans is an experience of "violence upon the body," we know what he is talking about.

Do black lives matter to American Jews? Yes, they do. Yes, they must. When black lives are threatened and black bodies and psyches are savaged by intimidation and violence, we have an obligation to join others in affirming that we stand with them.

In Rhode Island, the Jewish community has built lasting and meaningful connections of support with communities of color and our friends in law enforcement. I am deeply grateful to my colleague Rabbi Wayne Franklin, at Providence's Temple Emanu-El, and to Marty Cooper, the community relations director at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, for their work in forging such connections. They were among the first in Providence to bring law enforcement, communities of color and faith leaders together for dialogue and cooperation. Their work is not just helping to prevent "another Ferguson" from happening in Rhode Island, it is helping to answer the ancient call of our tradition to break the bonds of injustice.

RABBI JEFFREY W. GOLDWASSER is the spiritual leader of Temple Sinai, in Cranston. He is the social action chairman of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's Community Relations Council.

FROM PAGE 1

LEGISLATION

days flew by. Before we knew it, some bills had died in committee while others were approved or voted down by the House and the Senate. Likewise, resolutions were approved or defeated. And a state and federal budget were passed.

This legislative season, the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and its partners were strong advocates on a number of bills and resolutions on state and national issues.

Statewide, the CRC led a coalition to support Holocaust-Genocide education in Rhode Island schools. The CRC were also a partner on Rhode Island Anti-BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions of Israel) legislation and a number of social-justice issues relating to poverty, domestic violence, education, and gun violence.

Nationally, working with organizations such as the Jewish Federations of North America and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the CRC provided advocacy on issues such as sustaining services for our most vulnerable populations, promoting fair and compassionate immigration reform while safeguarding the U.S. refugee program, and protecting the community from terrorism and natural disasters.

Of special significance was the passage of the Older Americans Act, which includes a section that provides special services for Holocaust survivors.

In addition, the CRC focused on international interests, such as combating the assault on Israel's legitimacy, supporting a two-state solution (with a Jewish state living in peace alongside a demilitarized Palestinian state), strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship, and opposing Iran's development of nuclear weapons.

The first CRC victory was the passage of the Holocaust-Genocide Education bill. Rhode Island became the first state in New England to pass legislation requiring Holocaust-genocide education in the state's middle and/or high schools. The CRC's partners included the Holocaust Education and Resource Center, the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, and members of the Armenian community. Symbolically, the bill passed the House on *Yom ha-Shoah,* Holocaust Memorial Day.

In addition to the Holocaust, Rhode Island students will now study genocides in Armenia, Rwanda, Darfur, Cambodia and other places where atrocities took place. A commission will more than likely be created to develop the curriculum.

Near the very end of the legislative session, a bill passed to prohibit the state from entering into contracts with businesses that actively boycott, divest or levy sanctions on countries such as Israel. The legislation states that an organization doing business with the state of Rhode Island cannot knowingly engage in discriminatory practices with a country in good standing with the World Trade Organization. While not directly mentioning Israel, the legislation is now in place to support the Jewish state.

CRC Community Relations Council of The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island

The General Assembly also passed two resolutions important to the Jewish community. The first was to honor Yom ha-Shoah and the second to honor and support Israel Independence Day. The Independence Day resolution included a statement that encourages Israel and Rhode Island to grow its economic partnership.

Each year, certain subjects generate vehement debate, with hearings sometimes lasting for hours, at times past midnight. Such was the case with bills relating to guns.

The Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence saw approval of a couple of its bills. Among them, according to the coalition, was "Rhode Island's first dedicated state funding that will support strategies for stopping the cycle of domestic violence before it starts.

"The Prevention Fund was created through an additional $200,000 in the state budget."

The state's Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC, was increased from 12.5 percent to 15 percent of the federal credit for the 2017 tax year. Advocates for an increase, including the CRC, were hoping for 20 percent, which is more in line with other New England states. Still, the increase will improve economic security for the state's 80,000 lower wage-earners and their families.

Also passed was a bill supported by Common Cause, Rhode Island for Community & Justice, and a number of other advocacy organizations to improve voter access by establishing a system for online voter registration and permitting the state to join in interstate sharing of data to facilitate voter registration.

A bill to reduce out-of-school suspensions also passed this year. According to the Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty, the legislation requires school districts to annually analyze the discipline data they already collect; identify disparities based on race, ethnicity or special-education status; develop a plan to reduce any disparities; and restrict the use of out-of-school suspensions to situations when a child's behavior poses a physical risk or serious disruption that cannot be dealt with by other means.

A transportation bill became the subject of heated debate. Advocates, which included the CRC and its partners, did not want fares to be increased for our most vulnerable populations, seniors and the disabled, who often rely on RIPTA services to get them to their destinations. The opposition wanted fares to increase in order to balance RIPTA's budget. The end result was a compromise: Fares will remain the same until the end of the year. The CRC's hope is that in the next session, which begins in early January, additional funding will be approved to extend the discounted service.

The "Open Doors R.I." initiative, the state's plan to end homelessness, was approved. The bill paves the way for a $50-million bond on the November ballot that includes $40 million for affordable housing.

A number of social justice bills did not pass or come to a vote this session. These included raising the minimum wage, driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants, and payday lending reform. These bills are likely to be resubmitted during the next legislative session.

While our government is in recess, the CRC is not. During the summer and fall, the CRC will continue to advocate on behalf of the community, as well as work with its partners to develop goals, objectives and strategies to move forward with much-needed legislation.

At the same time, much like the candidates running for office, we will be listening to our constituents.

MARTY COOPER is the community relations director for the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

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.

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.

Friday | August 5

Shabbat Shaboom. 5:30 p.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Monthly program for families with toddlers, preschoolers and kindergartners. Read stories, sing songs, make Shabbat blessings and eat pizza. Free and open to all. More information, 401-942-8350.

Saturday | August 6

Taste of Shabbat. 9 a.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Come and celebrate a Taste of Shabbat at Temple Torat Yisrael. Torah discussion from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. and an abbreviated Shabbat service from 9:45 a.m. to 11 a.m. followed by a light Kiddush. All are welcome! For more information, call Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Sunday | August 7

Project Shoresh Partners in Torah Night. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Center for Jewish Studies, 671 East Ave., Pawtucket. Come join a free, lively, informal, partner-based study group, where you study your choice of texts together, English or Hebrew, ancient or modern, with on-site facilitators available to answer questions – and ask them, too. Let us know if you want to be a "study-buddy." There's a lively, positive energy in the room. For more information, contact Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or 401-429-8244.

Tuesday | August 9

Hadassah Rhode Island Books on the Beach. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Ocean-Cliff, 65 Ridge Road, Newport. Sixth annual Author Luncheon. Meet two award-winning Jewish writers, B.A. Shapiro, author of "The Art Forger" and "The Muralist," and Talia Carner, author of "Hotel Moscow." Questions? 401-463-3636 or rhodeislandchapter@hadassah.org.

Saturday | August 13

(401)j Shabbat in the Park: A Community Event. 1:30 p.m. Lippitt Memorial Park, Hope Street, Providence. No reservations required. Bring your own Shabbat lunch. For more information, contact Erin Moseley at emoseley@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 108.

A Reading of the Book of Lamentations followed by a Kumzitz. 8:30 p.m. Ohawe Shalom/Kollel Center for Jewish Studies, 671 East Ave., Pawtucket. Please join us for an inspiring and meaningful evening. Program begins with the Maariv prayer. Maariv will be followed by the reading of the book of Eicha, Lamentations, an eyewitness account of the destruction of Jerusalem and the First Temple at approximately 9 p.m. This will be followed by a kumzitz with singing and stories about Tisha B'Av. This program is jointly organized by Providence Community Kollel, Congregation Ohawe Shalom and Project Shoresh. For more information, contact Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or 401-429-8244 or Rabbi Raphie Shochet at 401-383-2786.

Sunday | August 14

Project Shoresh Partners in Torah Night. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Center for Jewish Studies, 671 East Ave., Pawtucket. Come to a free, lively, informal, partner-based study group, where you study your choice of texts together, English or Hebrew, ancient or modern, with on-site facilitators available to answer questions – and ask them, too. Let us know if you want to be a "study-buddy." There's a lively, positive energy in the room. For more information, contact Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or 401-429-8244.

Tuesday | August 16

West Bay Havurah at Warwick Sewer Authority Treatment Plant. 2-3 p.m. 125 Arthur W. Devine Blvd., Warwick. Know what happens to your wastewater once it flows down your drain? Join the Havurah for a FREE guided tour of the Warwick Sewer Authority's (WSA) advanced wastewater treatment facility. Their professional staff will provide us with a brief history of the WSA before guiding us around the facility to see firsthand where our wastewater goes after it leaves our homes. We will learn how wastewater from Warwick's residential, commercial and industrial users is processed, cleaned and returned to the Pawtuxet River and ultimately Narragansett Bay. This tour promises to be both educational and exceptional at the same time, and is strictly limited to 20 people. Register with Mark Sweberg at 401-248-5010 by Aug. 13; first-come, first-served. Car-pooling encouraged.

Thursday | August 18

Bornstein Holocaust Education Center Board Meeting. 7-9 p.m. Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Regularly scheduled board meeting. For more information, contact May-Ronny Zeidman at mzeidman@hercri.org or 401-453-7860.

Friday | August 19

Summer J-Camp Carnival. 3 p.m. Dwares JCC. Save the date for an end-of-summer carnival that our campers and counselors create. There will be a surprise or two from Absolute Party Rentals. Families of anyone who attends a week of J-Camp are welcome to join in! For more information, contact Seth Finkle at 401-421-4111 ext. 146 or sfinkle@jewishallianceri.org.

Family Shabbat Picnic. 5:30 p.m. Dwares JCC. A Shabbat picnic in the fields behind the building. For more information, contact Erin Moseley at emoseley@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111 ext. 108.

Shabbat Barbecue and Shabbat Under the Stars Service. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Enjoy a family barbecue followed by a Shabbat Service Under the Stars on the Julie Claire Gutterman Patio. New and prospective members and non-member guests free of charge; Temple members $5. For more information or to RSVP (by Aug. 10), call 401-331-6070.

Saturday | August 20

West Bay Havurah at Rudy's Deli. 2-4 p.m. Rudy's Delicatessen, 961 Dyer Ave., Cranston. A West Bay Havurah FAVORITE is back! Help celebrate the one-year anniversary of New York Style Rudy's Deli as we enjoy the great food they have come to be known for and schmooze with friends. Order from the mouthwatering menu, and enjoy the great tastes and comforts of their "Jewish Soul Food." Limited to 14 people. Register with Mark Sweberg at 401-248-5010; first-come, first-served. Don't delay; this will sell out!

Sunday | August 21

Project Shoresh Partners in Torah Night. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Center for Jewish Studies, 671 East Ave., Pawtucket. Come for a free, lively, informal, partner-based study group, where you study your choice of texts together, English or Hebrew, ancient or modern, with on-site facilitators available to answer questions – and ask them, too. Let us know if you want to be a "study-buddy." There's a lively, positive energy in the room. For more information, contact Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or 401-429-8244.

Monday | August 22

West Bay Havurah at Pawsox Game. 6:15 p.m. ticket-buying meet-up; game starts at 7:05 p.m. McCoy Stadium, One Columbus Ave., Pawtucket. Spiel Ball! Come join Havurah member Mike Schlesinger at the Pawsox, and see tomorrow's stars today! Meet at the ticket booth at 6:15 p.m. to buy your tickets for the general admission section (adults: $9; children & seniors: $6). Mike advises that they have a diverse concession menu including a veggie tray, gluten-free items, good French fries and all the rest of the chazerie you would expect at a baseball park. Rain date to be announced. For more information or to RSVP, contact Mike at mikeschles123@gmail.com.

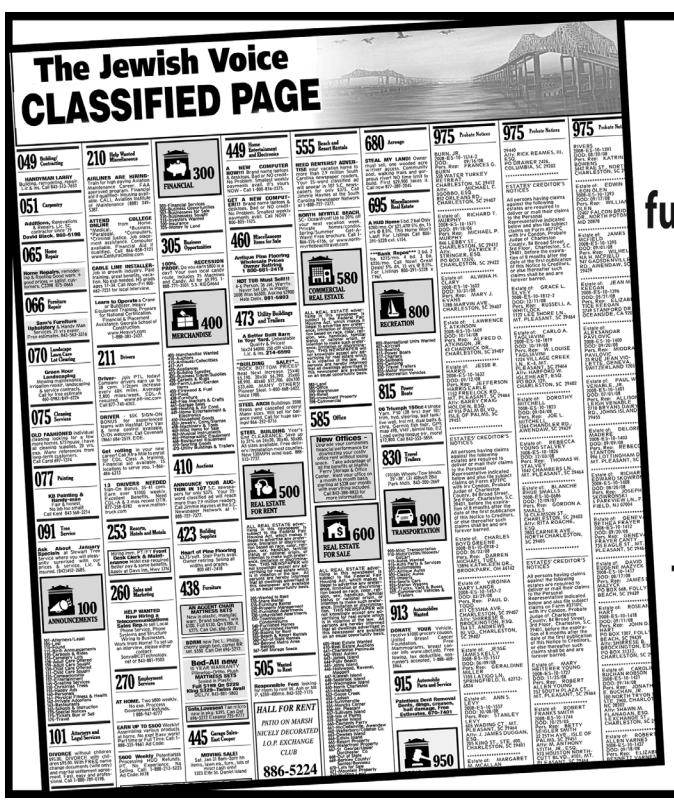
Friday – Sunday | August 26-28

(401)j Shabbaton. Camp JORI, 1065 Wordens Pond Road, Wakefield. Kick back and enjoy a memorable weekend with our expanding community of (401)j-ers. From Shabbat experiences to workshops to free time with your friends, you will have the opportunity to build connections with each other, strengthen your Jewish identity, learn, have fun, relax and more! Activities include bonfires, a ropes course, traditional and alternative prayer, meditation, canoeing and kayaking, musical Havdalah, Ultimate Frisbee, outdoor boot camp, night walks and lots more! $36 per person if registered before Aug. 1 | $42 per person after Aug. 1. Includes: lodging, food, drinks and all activities. Private accommodations are available for an additional fee. (401)j is a group of dynamic Jews, ages early 20s to mid-40s, who are dedicated to building a thriving Jewish collaboration in the "401." For more information, contact Erin Moseley at emoseley@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 108.

Sunday | August 28

Project Shoresh Partners in Torah Night. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Center for Jewish Studies, 671 East Avenue, Pawtucket. Come for a free, lively, informal, partner-based study group, where you study your choice of texts together, English or Hebrew, ancient or modern, with on-site facilitators available to answer questions – and ask them, too. Let us know if you want to be a "study-buddy." There's a lively, positive energy in the room. For more information, contact Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or 401-429-8244.

You can post your community calendar information to **The Voice calendar** online, accessible at jvhri.org or jewishallianceri.org.
It only takes a few minutes to register and fill in the form. Your listing will appear both on the Jewish Voice website and the Alliance website and selected items will also be published in the Voice.
Contact editor@jewishallianceri.org with any questions.



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Topics can range from weddings to bar mitzvahs; from gardening to parenting; and from cooking to book reviews. Experience, training or a background in writing or journalism is strongly preferred. Ability to take photos (or video) is plus as is web and social media experience. Send resume, ideas and writing samples to editor@jewishallianceri.org

Peter Yarrow inspires at Congregation Beth David fundraiser

BY FRANK PROSNITZ

In many ways, the Congregation Beth David fundraiser on July 16 was simply magical.

The kids, those from 11 to 85, swarmed the makeshift stage at Narragansett's Aqua Blue, invited by Peter Yarrow to join him in singing what really is a children's song, "Puff the Magic Dragon." It was written by Yarrow, of Peter Paul & Mary fame, when he was a student at Cornell University.

It was an evening in which Yarrow, 78, reached the hearts of the 240 who attended, many relating to generations' past, when Yarrow and the trio virtually sang the anthems of a generation that grew up inspired by their music.

It was a room full of emotion – of laughter, and sometimes tears – and always song.

On virtually every song, Yarrow invited the crowd to sing along … and they did!

Through song and dialogue he brought the audience through the Peter Paul & Mary years, through battles for racial equality and union recognition, to Israel and its long quest for peace, and to today's racial tensions and divisive rhetoric.

Yarrow was the centerpiece of an event that included a buffet dinner by Amalfi Catering, and silent and live auctions.

"This was an outstanding event, not only as a fundraiser, but maybe more so, bringing our community together," said Harris Chorney, president of the Narragansett congregation.



Members of the audience joined Peter Yarrow onstage.

In a night of inspiration, Yarrow also spoke of Operation Respect, a nonprofit organization he co-founded more than 25 years ago with Dr. Charlotte Frank, a senior vice president at McGraw-Hill Education. Operation Respect is designed to foster respectful, safe and compassionate climates of learning, free of bullying, ridicule and violence.

Yarrow said he was inspired to develop the organization after hearing a song, "Don't Laugh at Me," which speaks of the way music empowers, energizes, reaches people's hearts, and can be a catalyst for change. The organization has created its own "Don't Laugh at Me" curriculum, and has disseminated more than 180,000 copies throughout the United States and other countries, including Israel.

FRANK PROSNITZ is a member of Congregation Beth David in Narragansett.

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Recent volunteers (left to right): Joshua Adler, Jeremy Wilner, Kevin Dwares, Ken Schneider.

The Louis & Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry, a program of the Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island, benefits from hard-working volunteers, who stock shelves, deliver food, package bags and help participants shop.

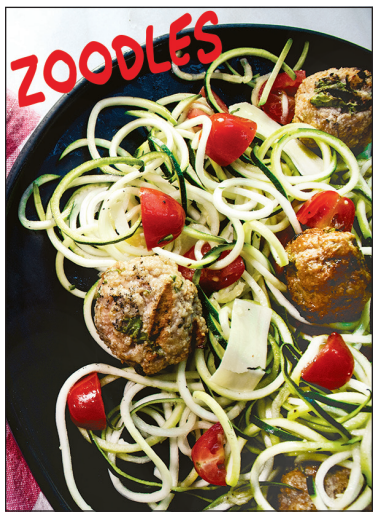
To become a volunteer for the pantry or other Jewish Seniors Agency programs, call 401-621-5374, ext. 107, or email Susan Adler at sadler-jeri@jsari.org. If you know of anyone in need of food, contact jsari. For more information, go to jsari.org. The Louis & Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry is a partner agency with the Jewish Alliance.

Simple swaps for serious summer flavor

FAMILY FEATURES – From burgers to barbecued chicken, many of the best grilled foods are served with condiments that often pack on calories and fat. Next time you're ready to grill, experiment with new ways to create simple but robust flavors using fewer ingredients through simple swaps.

Rice vinegars offer a healthy alternative to fatty condiments when grilling. Keeping meals simple is easy with naturally gluten-free Nakano Rice Vinegar, which includes six or fewer simple ingredients with no artificial preservatives, flavors or ingredients, and no high-fructose corn syrup or MSG. The brand recently announced a clean-labeling initiative for all of its products, which now have easy-to-read labels with recognizable ingredients.

Dawn Jackson Blatner, star of ABC's "My Diet Is Better Than Yours," author of "Superfood Swap" and a registered dietitian and nutrition consultant for the Chicago Cubs, has created healthy dishes to heat up the grill this season.



Grilled Meatballs and Zoodles

Servings: 4

Meatballs

1 pound organic ground turkey or grass-fed ground beef
1 cup organic kale, finely chopped
1/2 cup crushed brown rice crackers
1 egg
1/4 teaspoon red chili pepper flakes
1/4 teaspoon sea salt
Nonstick cooking spray

Salad

4 medium zucchini
2 cups organic cherry tomatoes, chopped
1/4 cup shaved Parmesan cheese, optional
1/4 cup Nakano Rice Vinegar - Natural or Nakano Organic Rice Vinegar - Natural
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
Sea salt, to taste
Black pepper, to taste

Method

Heat grill to medium.

In large mixing bowl, combine ground meat, kale, crackers, egg, chili pepper flakes and salt. Use hands to form mixture into 12 balls. Refrigerate 30-60 minutes to help meatballs set.

Mist meatballs with nonstick cooking spray and place them on grill. Grill each side 3-4 minutes, using tongs to flip to sides that haven't been browned yet. Meatballs should reach internal temperature of 165 degrees F.

Using vegetable spiralizer, create zucchini noodles. Toss zucchini with tomatoes, Parmesan, vinegar, olive oil, salt and pepper.

Serve each zoodle plate with three meatballs.

Nutritional information per serving: 350 calories; 20 g total fat; 6 g saturated fat; 240 mg sodium; 14 g carbs; 3 g fiber; 6 g sugar; 32 g protein.



Grilled Veggie and Ranch Bowl

Servings: 2

8 ounces skinless chicken breast
2 ears corn, shucked
6 asparagus spears, trimmed
1 organic bell pepper, seeded and cut into 4 large pieces
1 zucchini, cut in half lengthwise
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
Sea salt, to taste
Pepper, to taste
4 tablespoons Cashew Ranch Dressing (recipe follows)

Method

Heat grill to medium.

Season chicken breast, corn, asparagus, bell pepper and zucchini with olive oil, sea salt and pepper.

Grill chicken 6-7 minutes per side, internal temperature reaches 165 degrees F. Grill corn 10-15 minutes, rotating after every pop, until corn is golden. Grill asparagus, bell pepper and zucchini 3-5 minutes per side, until tender.

Separate chicken, corn, asparagus, bell pepper and zucchini evenly into two bowls. Drizzle bowls with Cashew Ranch Dressing.

Note: Bowl leftovers can be refrigerated for up to four days.

Nutritional information per serving: 450 calories; 21 g total fat; 4.5 g saturated fat; 870 mg sodium; 31 g carbs; 6 g fiber; 10 g sugar; 38 g protein.

Cashew Ranch Dressing

Makes: 1 cup
1 cup raw, unsalted cashews
3/4 cup almost-boiling water
3 tablespoons Nakano Rice Vinegar - Natural or Nakano Organic Rice Vinegar - Natural
1 clove garlic, minced
1/4 teaspoon dried dill
1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
1 teaspoon sea salt
1 teaspoon black pepper
2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh chives

Method

In food processor, puree cashews, water, rice vinegar, garlic, dill, oregano, salt and pepper 3-4 minutes, until creamy. For best results, drizzle water in gradually as food processor is running. Stir in chives.

Note: Leftover dressing can be refrigerated in an airtight container for up to seven days.

Nutritional information per tablespoon: 50 calories; 4 g total fat; 0.5 g saturated fat; 110 mg sodium; 3 g carbs; 1 g sugar; 2 g protein.



Tuna Stuffed Avocado

Servings: 2

1 ripe avocado
1 can (5 ounces) tuna packed in water, drained
1/2 cup finely diced celery
1/2 cup grated carrot
1/4 cup finely diced red onion
2 tablespoons Nakano Rice Vinegar - Natural or Nakano Organic Rice Vinegar - Natural
1/2 tablespoon olive oil
1/2 tablespoon Dijon mustard
1/8 teaspoon sea salt
1/8 teaspoon black pepper
16 brown rice crackers

Method

Cut avocado in half, remove pit and scoop out flesh leaving thin wall of avocado. Dice avocado flesh and set shell aside for serving.

In small bowl, combine tuna, celery, carrot, onion, vinegar, oil, mustard, salt and pepper. Mix well. Stir in diced avocado.

Scoop mixture into avocado shells and serve with brown rice crackers.

Nutritional information per serving: 360 calories; 19 g total fat; 3 g saturated fat; 530 mg sodium; 26 g carbs; 9 g fiber; 3 g sugar; 22 g protein.

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7 books to make your summer more summery — and Jewish, too

BY VICTOR WISHNA

JTA – Summer's still here, and whether from the heat or the humidity or the harrowing election cycle, we bet you could use an escape.

So take our advice: Whether you're lucky enough to be lazing on a beach or packed in like a pickled herring on a subway car, take some time to retreat into a good, Jewishy book. Here are seven fresh reads on the lighter side – because it's too hot out there to get too heavy.







"A Book About Love" (Simon and Schuster) By Jonah Lehrer

OK, you will probably hate this book – which is totally why you'll have so much fun reading it. This is Lehrer's first published volume since high-profile plagiarism revelations cost the Jewish wunderkind his gigs for The New Yorker and NPR's "Radiolab," not to mention his many lucrative speaking engagements. The book has been, shall we say, poorly received: "insolently unoriginal" was one of the gentler rebukes from The New York Times. But you could read Lehrer's treatise on how humans form and maintain romantic connections, and draw your own conclusions – after all, love is blind.

"The Extra" (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) By A.B. Yehoshua, translated by Stuart Schoffman

The iconic Israeli author's 20th novel, and the 11th to be translated into English, is propelled by the friction triggered when individual independence runs into family obligation. Schoffman's highly readable rendition of Yehoshua's prose tells the tale of Noga, a harpist and divorcee who is torn from her idyllic, secular life in the Netherlands and summoned home to Jerusalem. There she must confront the expectations of her religious family, as well as other characters – and decisions – from her past. The book tackles some large themes – between Orthodox and secular Jews, Israelis and Palestinians – as well as the more universal conflict: complicated family dynamics. For those visiting relatives this summer, this is a good one to bring along.

"Forbidden Love in St. Petersburg" (The Overlook Press) By Mishka Ben-David, translated by Dan Gillon

Spy thrillers might be a shekel a dozen, but rare is the fictional Mossad escapade written by an actual former high-ranking officer of Israel's renowned intelligence agency. Ben-David, a best-selling author, has penned several, and he delivers again with a Russia-based tale of shadowy spycraft, mistaken identity and passionate romance – each threatening to undo the other – and all with an authoritative inside glimpse of the mystery that is the Mossad. Are you a John le Carre lover? Take note.

"Kissing in America" (HarperCollins) By Margo Rabb

This second novel from the award-winning Rabb is actually for teens – but we know how much adults can love those (even when they don't feature vampires or hungry kids fighting to the death). In this case, the protagonist is a 16-year-old Jewish girl named Eva, the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors who loses herself in romance novels to escape the grief of her father's recent dramatic death. A real-life romance develops – yes, in America; yes, with kissing – and a road trip in the name of love soon ensues.

"Seinfeldia: How a Show About Nothing Changed Everything" (Simon and Schuster) By Jennifer Keishin Armstrong

Nearly 20 years after the series finale, many of us refuse to accept that "Seinfeld" ever ended – phrases like "No soup for you!" have become part of the cultural lexicon. With the precision of a scientist, entertainment writer and TV historian, Armstrong dives into the ecosystem that Larry David and Jerry Seinfeld dreamed up over a cup of coffee, a "silly little sitcom" about the daily offstage life of a New York Jewish comedian and his friends that they never thought anyone would watch. But millions did on a weekly basis, and the show's following is nearly as strong today – not that there's anything wrong with that.

"Underground Airlines" (Mulholland Books) By Ben Winters

An award-winning writer, Winters has an impressively varied catalog: His previous tomes include "Sense and Sensibility and Sea Monsters" and "World of Trouble." For the setting of his newest thriller, Winters envisions a familiar modern-day United States – save for the fact that the Civil War never happened and slavery still exists. Here, sci-fi meets sanctioned servitude in a literary mashup about a black bounty hunter tracking escaped slaves for the U.S. Marshals Service. The novel has received rave reviews – NPR called it "exceptional" – but there's a larger drama in play, too: The release of this novel by a white Jewish writer has sparked fresh controversy over who gets to tell which stories. Read it and decide for yourself.

"You'll Grow Out of It" (Grand Central Publishing) By Jessi Klein

This collection of real-life stories from comedian Klein, the Emmy-winning head writer of Comedy Central's "Inside Amy Schumer" and self-described "tom man"– a tomboy who never did grow out of it – offers a funny (obviously) yet poignant take on the minefield that is modern femininity. Over the course of two dozen essays, she takes on topics such as bad breakups, pregnancy and aging, along with everything from pornography (she finds most of it challenging) to Anthropologie (the place where she feels "emotionally home").



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Elie Wiesel books that show the range of his influence



A portrait of Elie Wiesel by Marshall H. Cohen that hangs in the National Press Club, Washington, D.C.



PHOTOS | MARSHALL H. COHEN, WASHINGTON, D.C.

At the April 22, 1993, dedication of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. (left to right) Harvey Meyerhoff, museum chair; President Clinton and Elie Wiesel.

BY GABE FRIEDMAN

JTA – Most people know Elie Wiesel as the author of "Night," one of the first published autobiographical accounts of what life was like inside Nazi concentration camps. The book, which helped shape the American understanding of the effects of the Holocaust, has since become a staple on high school reading and best-seller lists.

But Wiesel, who passed away July 2 at age 87, wrote more than 50 books of fiction and nonfiction – and not all were focused on his harrowing experiences in the Auschwitz and Buchenwald camps. He was interested in political activism, philosophy and religion, and his books ranged from novels that question the existence of God to a journalistic expose on the plight of Soviet Jewry.

Here's the Wiesel reading list everyone should know.

"Night" (1960)

Arguably the most influential book on the Holocaust, "Night" brought the atrocities faced by Jews in the concentration camps to the forefront of American consciousness. The book's narrator, Eliezer, chronicles his hellish experience in Auschwitz through a lyric, fragmented style now acknowledged as a "genuine artistic achievement." Young Eliezer survives the torturous labor and murderous Gestapo, but his belief in God is forever altered.

"Dawn" and "Day" (1961, 1962)

Along with "Night," these two works form a trilogy that deals with the Holocaust and its aftereffects. Although "Night" has been variously described as a memoir, a novel and a "testimony" (by Wiesel himself), these two books are decidedly fictional. In "Dawn," a Holocaust survivor moves to pre-state Israel (what was then the British Mandate of Palestine), joins the Irgun (a predecessor of the Israel Defense Forces) and struggles with an order to execute a British officer. In "Day," a Holocaust survivor comes to terms with his World War II experiences while recuperating in a hospital after being injured in a car accident.

"The Jews of Silence" (1967)

In 1965, Wiesel was sent to the Soviet Union by the Israeli newspaper Haaretz. His observations on the plight of Jews there – who suffered from anti-Semitic discrimination and were forbidden to publicly practice their religion – became the catalyst for an activist and political movement in the West that eventually helped thousands migrate to Israel and other countries in the 1980s.

"I would approach Jews who had never been placed in the Soviet show window by Soviet authorities," he wrote. "They alone, in their anonymity, could describe the conditions under which they live."

"A Beggar in Jerusalem" (1970)

Wiesel turned his imagination to the Six-Day War in this novel originally written in French, which won France's prestigious Prix Medicis award. Wiesel, who worked as a journalist in France after being liberated from Buchenwald, muses on suffering and loss through the protagonist David, a Holocaust survivor who runs into a group of beggars near the Western Wall days after the war. Their stories bring him back to his painful memories of World War II and fighting Arab soldiers in the 1967 war.

"Souls on Fire: Portraits and Legends of Hasidic Masters" (1972)

Wiesel, who struggled with his faith after his Holocaust experiences, never lost his fascination with Hasidism, the ecstatic spiritual movement of which his grandfather was a follower. "Souls on Fire" is a collection of lectures on the lives of the early Hasidic masters from Eastern Europe, starting with the movement's founder, the Baal Shem Tov, and including storytelling rabbis and kabbalists who continued the tradition. The portraits combine history and legend, and along the way, Wiesel wrestles with the question of whether men can speak for God.

"The Trial of God" (1979)

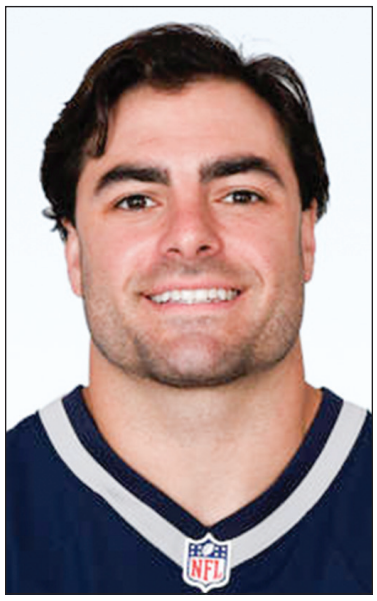
This eerie story – one of the very few plays Wiesel wrote – is set in a Ukrainian village in 1649, where a Cossack pogrom has just wiped out all but two of the town's Jews. Instead of staging a Purim play, the survivors – along with three actors – stage a mock trial of God.

Although the play is set in the 17th century, Wiesel has said he based it on an event he witnessed at Auschwitz, when three rabbis came together to indict God for allowing the Holocaust to happen.



FROM PAGE 1 | # OLYMPICS

(not just because of her "advanced" age – she apparently also likes to nap). Nonetheless, the laser-focused star was recently named team captain. We're rooting for her to make her mark again in Rio.



Nate Ebner (Rugby)

Until a couple of weeks ago, Ebner was "only" known as one of the few Jewish players in the NFL – the 27-year-old special teams ace and safety helped the New England Patriots win the Super Bowl in 2014.

But Ebner will now go down in history as the first-ever NFL player to make a U.S. Olympic team.

After being granted a leave of absence by the Patriots in May to train, Ebner – whose father was the Sunday school principal of Temple Sholom in Springfield, Ohio – made the rugby squad earlier this month.

The leap didn't appear out of nowhere: Ebner was an All-America rugby player at Ohio State and played for the U.S. National team at 17, the youngest player to do so.

Rugby hasn't been played in the Olympics since 1924, when the U.S. won a gold medal led by a Jewish player and manager, Samuel Goodman. It will be making a vivid return this year – the only style of the game to be played in Rio will be sevens, a fast-paced version featuring seven players per side and seven-minute halves compared to the typical 15 players and 40-minute halves.



Anthony Ervin (Swimming)

Born to an Ashkenazi Jewish mother and a father with both African-American and Native American heritage, swimmer Anthony Ervin has an interesting identity. He also has an unusual career arc for an Olympian.

After winning a gold medal in the 50-meter freestyle at the 2000 Olympics at age 19, Ervin felt burned out. He quit swimming in 2003, and as he details in a memoir published in April ("Chasing Water: Elegy of an Olympian"), spent his 20s experimenting with drugs, playing guitar and teaching the sport in Brooklyn. He nearly committed suicide by overdosing on the medication he takes for his Tourette's syndrome. In an even more symbolic split from swimming, Ervin auctioned off his gold medal for $17,000 and donated the money to the Tsunami Relief Fund.

Remarkably he made a comeback at the 2012 Olympics, placing fifth in the 50-meter freestyle. But he hasn't stopped there: He called his latest Olympic trials his best ever and qualified for both the 50-meter freestyle and the 4x100 meter freestyle relay in Rio.



Merrill Moses

Merrill Moses (Water Polo)

Not many athletes stay in peak shape long enough to participate in an Olympics at 39. But Merrill Moses, a water polo veteran of the 2008 and 2012 Olympics – and now a member of the Southern California Jewish Sports Hall of Fame – will do just that when he celebrates his birthday in the middle of the Rio games.

His secret might be his 6-foot-8-inch wingspan – or maybe it's his confidence.

"I've been the best goalkeeper in the United States for 15 years," Moses told Tribe Magazine last year. "I've seen the shots, been in this pressure."

Moses will likely be in the starting lineup for his third straight Olympics. Here's hoping the U.S. water polo team will win a gold medal this time; they took home a silver in 2008.

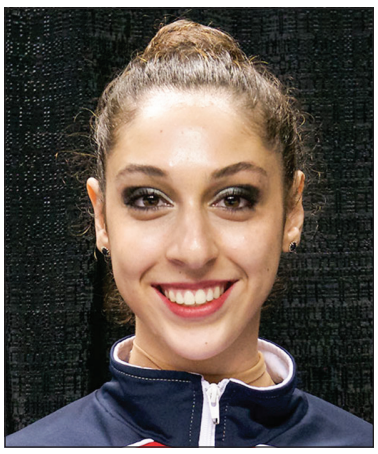


Eli Dershwitz (Fencing)

Don't confuse Harvard undergrad Eli Dershwitz with the famous Harvard professor Alan Dershowitz. While the latter is a respected lawyer and author, the former happens to be one of the best fencers in the world.

Dershwitz, 20, of Sherborn, Massachusetts (just a few miles from Aly Raisman's hometown of Needham), is one of only two U.S. men's saber fencers heading to Rio. His performance at the fencing World Cup in February helped the U.S. saber team rise to a No. 1 world ranking.

Look for Dershwitz, one of the youngest saber fencers in the world's top 25, to seriously compete for a medal.



Monica Rokhman (Women's rhythmic gymnastics)

This year marks only the second time that the U.S. women's rhythmic gymnastics team has qualified for the Olympics; the sport has been contested at the games since 1984. (In 1996, at the Atlanta Games, the squad was an automatic entry because it was representing the host nation.)

A rising star in this rising sport is Monica Rokhman, 19, who grew up near San Diego and is the daughter of Russian-Jewish immigrants. Rokhman and her twin sister, Jenny, also a gymnast, have been living in Chicago's North Shore suburbs to train. Jenny will serve as an alternate for the U.S. team.

In women's rhythmic gymnastics, five athletes perform routines with props like hoops and ribbons.



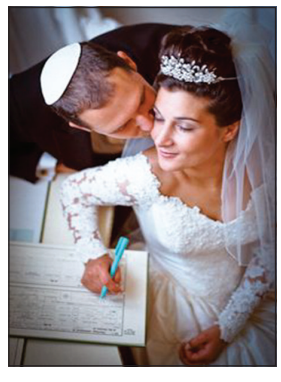
Zack Test (Rugby)

Remarkably, Nate Ebner isn't the only Jewish member of the U.S. rugby team heading to Rio – he will be joined by Zack Test, 26, a standout on the men's sevens roster.

Unlike Ebner, who took time off from the sport for his football career, Test has played eight consecutive years of international competition. The Northern California native and Jewish day school graduate is also one of the best players on the team – he tallied the third most points and second most tackles on the squad during its 2014-15 World Rugby Sevens World Series run.



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What do you know about the Jews of Brazil?

7 interesting facts

BY MARCUS MORAES

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) – When the 2016 Olympic Games open on Aug. 5, the eyes of the world will be on Rio – the first South American city to host the quadrennial event.

True, the build-up to the massive event – which features a record number of countries competing in a record number of sports – hasn't been easy, with reports of unfinished venues, polluted swimming and sailing sites and, most of all, concerns about the spread of Zika.

The run of bad news has put a damper on what should have been a moment of triumph for the people of Brazil, especially Brazil's Jewish community: The three top officials of the Rio 2016 Organizing Committee, including its president, Carlos Arthur Nuzman, are members of the Tribe.

But what about the remaining 120,000 or so Jews who call Brazil home? Who exactly are they? Here's what you need to know.

How many Jews are there in Brazil?

There are about 120,000 Jews in Brazil, according to local estimates, or between 90,000-100,000, according to some international sources. Either way, Brazil boasts the second largest Jewish population in Latin America – behind Argentina – and is home to the ninth-largest Jewish community in the world.

Brazil is home to some 204 million people. About 87 percent of them are Christian, including the world's largest Catholic population of 124 million. Evangelicals are the fastest-growing group; today they number more than 42 million, most of them strong supporters of Israel.

Brazil is home to the largest Arab population outside the Middle East with some 10 million members, though the overwhelming majority is Christian. Only some 35,000 are Muslim, with most living in the Triple Frontier area, where the borders of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay converge.

Where do they live?

Approximately 60,000 Jews – about half of Brazil's Jewish population – live in Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest city and its financial and cultural powerhouse. Rio comes in second with a population of nearly 40,000, according to the World Jewish Congress.

In Sao Paulo, the Jewish community has prospered; many Jews have moved from the immigrant enclave of Bom Retiro to the upscale Higienopolis area, where several synagogues, Kosher shops and other institutions may be found.

Between the 1920s and 1960s, Jewish immigrants in Rio concentrated in the downtown district of Praca Onze – incidentally the birthplace of samba – before moving on to wealthier areas such as Tijuca and Copacabana, where the largest number of Jewish institutions are.

In addition, about 10,000 Jews live in the southern Brazilian city of Porto Alegre.

What are Brazil's most influential Jewish institutions?

The CONIB, or Brazilian Israelite Confederation, is the central political representative of the Brazilian Jewish community. Established in 1948, it gathers 14 state federations with some 200 institutions. CONIB sets the Jewish community relations agenda, with the fight against anti-Semitism a key task.

The Albert Einstein Israelite Hospital, in Sao Paulo, is one of Brazil's strongest Jewish institutions. Built by donations from well-known Jewish families in 1955, it is considered Latin America's best hospital. "The Einstein makes proud not only the Jewish community but all of Brazil," said Alberto Milkewitz, executive director of the local Jewish federation.

The centerpieces of Jewish life in Brazil, however, are Hebraicas: multifaceted Jewish sports clubs that combine the functions of a Jewish community center and a country club. Sao Paulo's Hebraica is the largest Jewish organization in Brazil, with 18,000 members. Its activities include sports competitions, theater, youth movements, religious services, music and dance festivals – it even operates a day school.

Rio's Hebraica, though less grand and struggling to modernize its facilities, remains an epicenter of the city's Jewish life. It hosts the famed Hava Netze Bemachol dance festival and Maccabi soccer matches.

The Jewish presence in Brazil is more than 500 years old. Gaspar da Gama – a Jew by birth who was forcibly baptized – accompanied Portuguese admiral Pedro Alvares Cabral when he landed in Brazil in 1500. Other New Christians or conversos were aboard the ships.

Jews began settling in Brazil once the Inquisition reached Portugal in the 16th century. In 1624, the Dutch – who were tolerant of Jewish migration and open practice of religion – took over portions of northeast Brazil. In 1637, Jews built the Kahal Zur Israel synagogue in Recife, which was closed by the Portuguese when the Dutch were expelled in 1654. (It was re-opened in 2002 and now stands as the oldest existing synagogue in the Americas, housing a Jewish cultural center and museum.)

In 1773, a Portuguese royal decree finally abolished discrimination against Jews. Jews slowly filtered back to Brazil. Almost 50 years later, independent Brazil's first constitution in 1824 granted freedom of religion. A stream of Moroccan Jews began arriving, and set up in the Amazon region.

The population was swelled by waves of Russian and Polish Jews escaping pogroms and the Russian Revolution, and again in the 1930s during the rise of Nazis in Europe. In the late 1950s, another wave brought thousands of North African Jews.

Although they make up roughly only .06 percent of Brazil's population, Brazil's Jews play an important role in many different fields and activities in the country, including politics, academia, banking, industry, culture, entertainment and sports.

What's the identity of Brazilian Jews?

Brazil's Jewish community is mostly comprised of Ashkenazi Jews of Polish and German descent, but there is a sizable community of Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews of Syrian, Lebanese, Egyptian and Moroccan ancestry.

Most of Brazil's Jews identify themselves as secular and Zionist. Until the 1930s, under the influence of the Eastern European immigrants, the main religious stream was Orthodox. With the arrival of Jews from Central Europe, the Reform movement was introduced as well. Today the largest synagogues are Conservative and Reform: Sao Paulo's CIP and Rio's ARI. In recent years, the Chabad movement has grown significantly.

How do Brazilian Jews respond to anti-Semitism?

Jewish Brasil

The results of a global survey on anti-Semitic sentiments, released by the Anti-Defamation League in 2014, ranks Brazil among the least anti-Semitic countries in world. It's the third-lowest on the "Anti-Semitic Index" in the Americas, only behind the U.S. and Canada.

In Brazil it is illegal to write, edit, publish or sell literature that promotes anti-Semitism or racism. Manufacturing, trading and distributing items adorned with swastikas is also against the law. The number of online anti-Semitic incidents has been growing, though.

"We'll be always alert to anti-Semitic expressions and take the appropriate actions in order to avoid the proliferation of this type of discrimination," Sao Paulo Jewish federation's executive president Ricardo Berkiensztat recently told JTA.

What are Brazil-Israel relations like?

Brazil has had ties with Israel since its inception: Brazilian diplomat Oswaldo Aranha presided over the United Nations General Assembly session that voted for the partition of Palestine and for the creation of a Jewish state in 1947. "As Jewish Brazilians, we are very proud that a Brazilian like us has a historic participation by sealing the act that, after 2,000 years, gave the Land of Israel to whom it belongs by right," Israel's honorary consul in Rio, Osias Wurman, told JTA.

Since late 2015, however, an unprecedented diplomatic quarrel has left Israel's ambassador slot in Barazil vacant, when Brasilia rebuffed the appointment of ex-settler leader Dani Dayan. The crisis is not yet resolved, though Dayan was subsequently appointed Israel's consul general in New York.

The number of Brazilian Jews making *aliyah* more than doubled between 2011 and 2015. In 2015, nearly 500 individuals immigrated to Israel from Brazil, compared with only 191 in 2011. The tough economic climate in Brazil, combined with urban violence and government corruption, have been driving factors as Brazilians move to Israel seeking "quality of life."

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Weigh the pros and cons before rolling over 401(k) dollars into an IRA

If you're about to receive a distribution from your 401(k) plan and you're considering a rollover to a traditional IRA, you'll be happy to learn that these transactions are usually straightforward and trouble-free. However, there are some pitfalls you'll want to avoid. Before acting, keep the following in mind:



Consider the pros and cons of a rollover. The first mistake some people make is failing to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of a rollover to an IRA in the first place. You can leave your money in the 401(k) plan if your balance is over $5,000. And if you're changing jobs, you may also be able to roll over your distribution to your new employer's 401(k) plan.

Although IRAs typically offer significantly more investment opportunities and withdrawal flexibility, your 401(k) plan may offer investments that can't be duplicated in an IRA (or can't be duplicated at an equivalent cost).

Also, consider that 401(k) plans offer virtually unlimited protection from your creditors under federal law (assuming the plan is covered by ERISA; solo 401(k)s are not), whereas federal law protects your IRAs from creditors only if you declare bankruptcy. Any IRA creditor protection outside of bankruptcy depends on your particular state's laws.

Also keep in mind that many 401(k) plans allow employee loans and most don't provide an annuity payout option, while some IRAs do.

Not every distribution can be rolled over to an IRA. For example, required minimum distributions can't be rolled over, nor can hardship withdrawals or certain periodic payments; do so and you may have an excess contribution to deal with.

Use direct rollovers and avoid 60-day rollovers. While it may be tempting to give yourself a free 60-day loan, it's generally a mistake to use 60-day rollovers rather than direct (trustee to trustee) rollovers. If the plan sends the money to you, it's required to withhold 20 percent of the taxable amount. If you later want to roll over the entire amount of the original distribution into an IRA, you'll need to use other sources to make up the 20 percent the plan withheld. In addition, there's no need to taunt the rollover gods by risking an inadvertent violation of the 60-day limit.

Remember the 10-percent penalty tax. Taxable distributions you receive from a 401(k) plan before age 59½ are normally subject to a 10-percent early distribution penalty, but a special rule lets you avoid the tax if you receive your distribution as a result of leaving your job during or after the year you turn age 55 (age 50 for qualified public safety employees). But this special rule doesn't carry over to IRAs. If you roll over your distribution to an IRA, you'll need to wait until age 59½ before you can withdraw those dollars without the 10-percent penalty (unless another exception applies). So if you think you may need to use the funds before age 59½, a rollover to an IRA could be a costly mistake.

Learn about net unrealized appreciation (NUA). If your 401(k) plan distribution includes employer stock that's appreciated over the years, rolling over that stock into an IRA could be a serious mistake. Normally, distributions from 401(k) plans are subject to ordinary income taxes, but a special rule applies when you receive a distribution of employer stock from your plan: You pay ordinary income tax only on the cost of the stock at the time it was purchased for you by the plan. Any appreciation in the stock generally receives more favorable long-term capital gains treatment, regardless of how long you've owned the stock. (Any additional appreciation after the stock is distributed to you is either long-term or short-term capital gains, depending on your holding period.) These special NUA rules don't apply if you roll over the stock to an IRA.

Finally, if you're rolling over Roth 401(k) dollars to a Roth IRA, be aware that if your Roth 401(k) distribution isn't qualified (tax-free) because you haven't yet satisfied the five-year holding period, those dollars will be subject to the Roth IRA's five-year holding period, no matter how long they were in the 401(k) plan. So, for example, if you establish your first Roth IRA to accept your rollover, you'll have to wait five more years until your distribution from the Roth IRA will be qualified and tax-free.

BARBARA KENERSON is first vice president/Investments at Janney Montgomery Scott LLC and can be reached at BarbaraKenerson.com.

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FROM PAGE 2

TORAH

met Yerman, an affable and outgoing man, who eagerly welcomed us to his studio at the Sinai Free Synagogue. For nearly two hours he explained the process of Torah creation and restoration and the methodical skills necessary when dealing with a holy scroll. In addition, he regaled us with anecdotes and tales illustrating the inspirational nature of his work: Yerman's educational focus is aimed at nurturing not only a reverence for the physical Torah, but also a love of the wisdom embedded in the ancient letters.

He said each Torah is painstakingly handwritten, as Jewish law dictates. Consisting of 304,805 letters, it can take up to a year to create one Torah, at a cost of from $75,000 to $80,000.

Hebrew: A compressed language

To begin the restoration process, the sofer must bring a "spiritual intention" to bear on his work. "It is an act of love, the love of the Lord," Yerman says.

Speaking of Hebrew as "a compressed language, [with] an intense concentration of meaning inherent in the letters," he says its roots go back to Greek, Aramaic and Phoenician.

Often while he works, Yerman admits he "sings the letters" to himself. He explains, "The commandment says, 'Write the song,' not the Torah."

In attempting to write beautifully, which he sees as his charge, "we are actually performing the commandment to 'love the Lord,' and [consequently] love everything that comes of God," he says.

By extension, Yerman believes everything is implicit in this line: "And therefore choose life." He maintains that in all the relationships we have, "with family and friends, in all our undertakings – whether at prayer or work – when we attempt to write something, it should be done beautifully." In this way we each of us expand creation, he feels.

Examining the island Torah

During his initial examination of the congregation's Torah, Yerman explained it is between 80 and 90 years old and that it was made in Poland. The calligraphy, he says, "was written in the Bet Yoseph style with some hybrid elements [but] beautifully done."

Though during a cursory examination most of the text seemed in good condition, the parchment appeared to be in a worrisome state, Yerman said. Over the years, a coating of calcium carbonate had built up – the result of residing in a very damp place, its island home.

Noting that the parchment was made of goatskin, Yerman indicated some tears along the edges of the scroll. As we looked at the wooden rollers, he noted that they needed repair, and the mantle required replacement.

Realizing we were entrusting our Torah to the kindest and most knowledgeable of hands, we left it with Yerman in his climate-controlled workshop at the Sinai Free Synagogue.

When he completed his examination a month later, we learned that the restoration would cost several thousand dollars.

The congregants agreed that restoring the Torah was both a pragmatic and spiritual investment – and we felt a moral obligation to do so.

As a result, over these past months we mounted a fundraiser. By July, we had reached our goal of $4,000. We are very grateful for the outpouring of contributions and moral support, and hopeful that the restoration will be completed in time to dedicate the Torah and use it during the High Holy Days.

GLORIA S. REDLICH is secretary of Congregation Sons and Daughters of Ruth and a reporter for The Block Island Times. She can be reached at gloryb311@gmail.com.

2016 Olympics: Israel's largest-ever delegation is ready for Rio

BY MARCUS MORAES

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) – When the 2016 Olympic Games open in Brazil on Aug. 5, Israel will proudly show off its largest delegation ever, with 47 athletes competing in 17 sports.

Among them are golfer Laetitia Beck, the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor; Lonah Chemtai, a Kenyan-born marathoner, and Ron Darmon, the first triathlete to represent Israel at the Olympic Games.

Israelis and Jews around the world are expected to show their support for the team, which failed to medal in 2012 when the Israeli delegation numbered 37. Some 10,000 Israeli tourists are expected to attend the Games – they will join Rio's nearly 40,000-strong Jewish community, along with other Jewish supporters from across Brazil and around the world.

"We are a small team compared to other countries, but we have quality and are determined," Israeli Olympic Committee President Igal Carmi told the delegation during a meeting in Jerusalem at Israeli President Reuven Rivlin's residence on July 13 before departing for Brazil. "I am very proud of the Israeli team. We are ready to compete at the highest levels."

One of Israel's top Olympic hopes, rhythmic gymnast Neta Rivkin, will hold the Israeli flag at the opening ceremony.

"When I was told, I felt I was fulfilling another personal dream," she said at the meeting. "On behalf of all the athletes, I can promise that we will all do our very best. We all want to bring moments of joy to the Israeli people."

Some of Israel's competitors arrived in Brazil early to acclimatize to the Brazilian climate and setting. Preferring to avoid the Rio fuss, many made their temporary homes in Sao Paulo, the country's largest city and its financial capital – not to be confused with its actual capital city, Brasilia – and home to its largest Jewish population.

Although 250 miles away from the Olympic Village in Rio, Sao Paulo's Hebraica – a massive complex that's somewhat akin to a Jewish community center – was chosen as a pre-games training camp for the Israeli and Japanese swimming, water polo, basketball, gymnastics, handball, judo, shooting, tennis and volleyball teams.

"Half of the Israeli delegation will train at Hebraica," said Avi Gelberg, the sports club's president. "We are very proud as Jews to be able to be close to the Israeli athletes, help their preparation and – why not? – contribute to their achievements."

Aside from leading the world's largest Jewish sports club, Gelberg, who was born in Haifa, also presides over the Maccabi organization in Brazil.

"Welcoming the Olympic Games is a big pride," he said. "Despite political issues, corruption, Zika, pollution and so on, I am sure Brazil will make excellent Games the same way we did with the World Soccer Cup here in 2014.

"Israel will be able to present itself in a positive way much beyond the conflicts," added Gelberg, who will also serve as the Israeli delegation's attaché.

Israel's delegation also includes 34 coaches and about 25 support staff.

In 16 Olympic Games, Israel has won seven medals – in judo, sailing and canoeing. The only gold medalist was windsurfer Gal Fridman (Athens, 2004), who also won a bronze medal in Atlanta in 1996.

Not even the recent news about Islamist terrorists – who have issued directives to "lone wolves" to carry out attacks against the Israeli delegation – nor the imprisonment of 12 people in Brazil who allegedly pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group via social media seem to be a concern for some Israeli delegation members.

"We have no issues about security or whatsoever. Not at all. We feel very safe. But we obviously cannot speak too much about it," Danny Oren, sport director of the Israeli delegation, told JTA.

Oren and the entire delegation – and, well, pretty much everyone – are looking forward to the opening ceremony. However, they won't be joined by Israel's most senior official expected to attend the Games. Miri Regev, Israel's minister of culture and sport, who is not observant, caught everyone by surprise when she announced on July 24 she won't violate Shabbat.

"Shabbat, our national day of rest, is one of the most important gifts that Jewish people have given to the culture of humanity," she said in a statement. "As the representative of the State of Israel, the sole Jewish state on the planet, I unfortunately cannot take part in the opening ceremony of the Olympics because it would require me to break the holy Sabbath."

It's not clear if she will be the only one to miss the event – but Oren insists that, if it happens, it's purely out of a competitive, not religious, spirit. "If this or that athlete decides not to attend, it will be for the fact it finishes very late and they will have a competition early in the morning on Saturday," Oren said.

Regev's presence is confirmed, however, for one of the most highly anticipated moments for Israelis in Rio: A ceremony to honor the 11 Israelis killed at the 1972 Munich Olympics will be held at Rio's City Hall on Aug. 14. It will be co-led by the International Olympic Committee along with the Olympic committees of Israel and Brazil.

At the team's sendoff at the president's house in Jerusalem, Regev spoke about countries, which she chose not to name, that do not recognize Israel and do not permit their athletes to compete against Israelis,

"Unfortunately, there are countries, even today, that exploit the Olympic Games for political gain and discriminate against Israeli athletes," Regev lamented. "This represents the new anti-Semitism and we need to fight it. When you are at the fields and halls of the [Olympic] events, remember that an entire country back at home is praying for your success."



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Seniors celebrate summer, veterans at Kosher Senior Café

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

PROVIDENCE –The Kosher Senior Cafe at Temple Emanu-El hosted the Providence Civic Orchestra of Senior Citizens on July 22 in a summer concert program. The lunchtime program included a meal, a short procession in recognition of veterans in attendance, and a classic song lineup. Attendees seated at round tables were waving flags, dancing and singing on the beautiful sunny Friday.

Approximately 80 people were in attendance, including Providence's mayor, Jorge Elorza. The orchestra played several well-known songs including "Give My Regards to Broadway," "Hava Nagila," Edith Piaf's "If You Love Me," and a track from "Fiddler on the Roof."

Vietnam veteran Steven Shapiro carried out an American flag during the veterans' procession. His wife, Elaine Shapiro, assistant to the director of Kosher nutrition at JFS, was working at the event.

"That's my husband," she said. "I'm very proud of him."

After the procession and several songs celebrating the USA, a hot lunch with traditional Jewish favorites, including brisket and matzo ball soup, was served. The Kosher Café is part of Jewish Family Service of Rhode Island's Kosher Nutrition program.

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





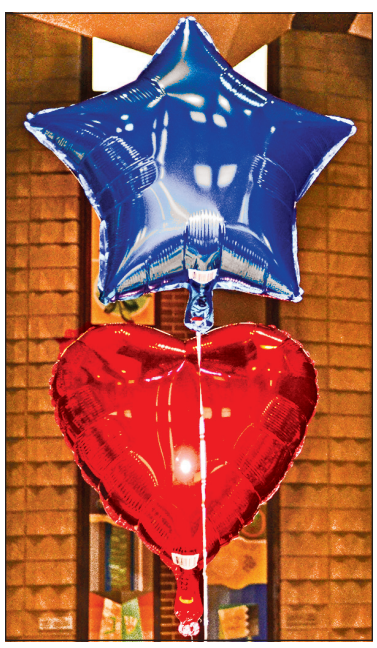
Orchestra members take a moment for the camera, left, and the concert goes on, right.



Left to right, Sara Goodwin, Sue Robbio, Mayor Elorza, Neal Drobnis, Patty Harwood.



PHOTOS | ARIEL BROTHMAN





Everyone enjoyed a festive program at the summer celebration.

From LA to Israel: One swimmer's journey to the Rio Olympics

BY HILLEL KUTTLER

NETANYA, Israel (JTA) – Andrea Murez steps on the diving board, adjusts her goggles, swings her long arms and propels herself into the water at the Wingate Institute athletic complex here.

Murez is training with a dozen other swimmers. She is the one preparing for the Summer Olympics.

The 24-year-old Los Angeles native will be representing Israel when she hits the pool on Aug. 8 at Rio de Janeiro's Olympic Aquatics Stadium, having immigrated in 2014 after excelling at the Maccabiah Games a year earlier and in 2009.

Her coach sees her reaching the semifinals in the 100 meters freestyle. Murez, who will be one of six Israeli swimmers in Rio – three women and three men – isn't making any predictions.

"I'm really just focused on swimming a personal-best time," she said. "It's hard to know what it'll take to swim a semifinal or a final. The best you can do is swim your own race."

Murez, who stands 6-foot-1, will compete in three additional events in Rio: the 50- and 200-meter freestyle and the 100-meter backstroke.

She has been excelling in the water since she and her older brother, Zachary, first took up swimming as children at the condo pool of their paternal grandfather, Joe, a swimmer in the 1930s for Hakoach, the legendary Jewish sports club in his native Vienna.

At 7, Murez completed the compulsory 100-meter swim in her county's junior lifeguard program. She reached the time requirement on her third try.

At a lifeguard's suggestion, Melanie and James Murez enrolled the siblings in a swim club. Murez was more passionate then about karate. She took lessons six days a week beginning at age 3 at a studio in the same building as one of the synagogues in Venice, California, the family attended.

But Murez progressed nicely in the pool. At 12, as a spectator, she attended the U.S. Olympics swimming trials in 2004 in nearby Long Beach.

"You're talented. You can make it at 15. Start dreaming," her coach at Team Santa Monica, Rachel Stratton-Mills, told her there.

Murez recalls thinking: "I realized I was getting to be the age where that's possible."

She competed at the 2009 Maccabiah Games in Israel, her grandfather and parents in attendance, then swam for a strong Stanford University team. Returning to the 2013 Maccabiah, Murez set multiple records in the very pool where she is practicing now and was selected the outstanding female athlete at the games.

Her overall Maccabiah medal count: 15, including 10 golds.

But Murez remembers the games as much for how well she was treated by the Israelis, especially in 2013.

"They asked if I could swim here [as an Israeli], which was funny because I'd wanted to," she said poolside before practice. "It seems like this is the best opportunity for me. I love it. It's been the best experience. I wouldn't have it any other way."

Murez lives in apartment on the grounds of Wingate and spends much of her day training. In her free time, she said she has enjoyed visiting the Dead Sea and coastal places like Caesarea.

A human biology major at Stanford, Murez plans to enroll in Tel Aviv University's medical school beginning in the fall of 2017, following the next Maccabiah, when she will be representing Israel.

Stratton-Mills said Murez at an early age enjoyed swimming but "didn't take it too seriously, in a wonderful way."

That changed, Stratton-Mills said, during a drill in which the coach placed pieces of paper in hats and instructed the swimmers to draw two: a stroke and a distance. Murez, who was about 11, drew the 500-meter butterfly – the "worst selection," Stratton-Mills said.

In completing the assignment, however, "something clicked" for Murez, Stratton-Mills said.

"I saw her turn into a serious, high-level swimmer," the coach said. "She handled everything from that point forward with the attitude of 'I can do this.' "

Melanie and James Murez are no strangers to the Olympics. They had met just prior to the 1984 Summer Games, when she worked for the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, in charge of the cadre of interpreters. Melanie recruited James as a technology consultant. Melanie's all-access pass enabled entry to all venues; she watched some swimming.

"I don't know if my seats will be as good this time," she joked.

Regardless of what the ticket says, of course, the view promises to be far better at these Olympics.

"I never thought I'd have a child go to the Olympics, so it's amazing," she said. "It's definitely a cycle and a circle."



Gilor Meshulam

Jewish War Veterans of R.I. state convention

Gilor Meshulam, the Jewish Alliance's outgoing *shaliach* (emissary), spoke to the Jewish War Veterans of Rhode Island at their state convention in June. He spoke about the unshakable bond between America and Israel, mentioning specifically how he feels Jewish U.S. military veterans inspire him and many of his fellow soldiers, according to Bruce Mendelsohn, New England Regional executive director of the Friends of the IDF.



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For more information about the Alliance Annual Campaign, contact Trine Lustig 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 new land, a new name

BY GERALDINE S. FOSTER

Birth certificates are legal documents. We need them to secure other legal documents, such as Social Security cards and work permits, driver's licenses, passports, marriage licenses. They are prosaic, matter of fact, but are of invaluable help to genealogists or for those searching for lost relatives. Often, beyond the simple stated facts, they have stories to tell about the experience of scores of immigrants in the last century.

My birth certificate was issued by the City of Rochester, in Monroe County, New York. It affirmed that a baby girl was born in Highland Hospital to parents Bernard and Irene Segal. The weight and the date shall remain privileged information.

My parents had decided on a name dear to their hearts. They chose Gitl Ruchl. Gitl was my maternal grandmother, Ruchl my paternal grandmother. In this way, both my grandmothers were memorialized. Both were part of my goodly inheritance – not of money, but of history.

But Gitl Ruchl does not appear on my birth certificate. On the official document, the aforementioned baby girl was named Geraldine Ruth. Geraldine Ruth? Geraldine was not a name found in Orinen, Ukraine, the *shtetl* my parents had left barely seven years before, nor were there any Ruths on our family tree. Therein lies my story, a story similar and familiar to the experience of many of my generation.

Approximately 3 million Jews from Eastern Europe immigrated to the United States between 1880 and 1920. They came to escape the pogroms and restrictive policies of the czars, the poverty and lack of opportunity for them.

World War I ended the massive flow of refugees. In the 1920s, the number of Eastern European Jews who could legally come to this country was limited by quotas. My parents, fortunately, had family here to vouch for them and who sent them tickets for a passage in steerage. After a harrowing trip, they were allowed to enter the "Promised Land," the land of promise.

My parents gave me a name dear to their hearts, but were persuaded to put another on the birth certificate. They were told, you live in America now, not in the Old World. Your child was born here, choose an American name for her. That way she will fit in better in school. No one will make fun of her name.

This argument was not unique to my parents or their situation. It was part of the well-meant process of acculturating immigrants, of helping newcomers shed their green-ness, of "fitting in better." These good intentions motivated my Americanized aunts, who saw to it that although Beryl and Chaya Segal left Orinen, Bernard and Clara Segal arrived in Minneapolis.

Irene later replaced Clara on my mother's citizenship papers because her cousin insisted it was a prettier name, more modern. Chaya felt neither like a Clara nor an Irene, but she acquiesced. At home, she was still Chaya. But what mattered was the legal document on which the name was written. Officially, my mother was now Irene Segal, American citizen – but in her heart she would always be Chaya.



PHOTO | R.I. JEWISH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Gerry Foster, left, Beth Weiss, Chaya Segal and Barbara Long at the presentation of an award to Gerry Foster and Chaya Segal in 1989.

My parents ultimately agreed to use an American name on my birth certificate. Like parents everywhere, they wanted the best for their children. If it would help their daughter fit in, so be it (but at home, they called me Gitele).

Their friend chose a "glamorous" name – Geraldine, as in Geraldine Farrar, the star of opera and film, noted for her beautiful voice. If you have ever heard me sing, you would appreciate the irony.

Linked to the generations of women named Gitl and Ruchl on our family tree, there was now a totally new name, an American name.

GERALDINE S. FOSTER is a past president of the R.I. Jewish Historical Association. To comment about this or any RIJHA article, contact the RIJHA office at info@rijha.org or 401-331-1360.

Nahum's Tomb, near Mosul, said to be at risk of collapse

JTA – An ancient Jewish site located just 30 miles from Islamic State-controlled Mosul is at risk of collapsing, a representative of Kurdish Jewry says.

Sherzan Omer, Kurdish Jewry's representative in the Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs at Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), said the biblical prophet Nahum's tomb, which is in the town of Alqosh, is in dire condition, Kurdistan24 reported Aug. 2.

In a statement released Aug. 1, Omer said his team "investigated the structure of the building, consulting experts, engineers and architects, and they report the building could completely fall apart within a couple of months."

He called on historical preservation groups, the United Nations, UNESCO and others to come to its aid.

The 1,500-year-old building was for centuries the site of a major Jewish pilgrimage each year on the holiday of Shavuot. When the majority of Kurdish Jews moved to Israel in 1951, the tomb was left in the hands of a Chaldean family that struggled to maintain it.

"This site does not only belong to Jews. It's part of human history, therefore saving the site is everyone's responsibility," Sherzad said in a statement.

According to Kurdistan24, Alqosh is located 30 miles north of Mosul. It has been protected by Peshmerga forces since the Islamic State rose to power.

Tim White to speak at Cranston Senior Guild

Investigative reporter Tim White from Channel 12 will speak about fighting fraud and exposing corruption at Cranston Senior Guild on Sept. 7 at 1 p.m. at Tamarisk Assisted Living, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick.

White is the recipient of three New England Emmy Awards for investigative reporting. He was honored for a 2010 series of stories probing government waste in Rhode Island. He won his second Emmy in 2012 for coverage of Providence's troubled pension system. A 2014 probe into a lack of accountability at a local fire district led to his third Emmy award.

After White's presentation, there will be a short meeting followed by refreshments and a raffle. Men and women ages 55 years and older are welcome to join. You do not have to live in Cranston. Come meet other seniors and enjoy this organization that was founded in the 1970s.

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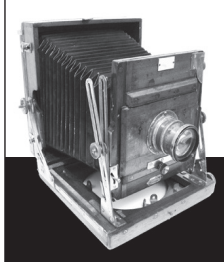
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Wesley S. Alpert, 90

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Wesley S. Alpert died July 20. He was the husband of the late Grace (Kennison) Alpert. Born in Fall River, Mass., he was the son of the late Jacob and Bertha (Cohen) Alpert.

Alpert served as an electronic technician for the U.S. Navy during WWII. He graduated from Harvard, Class of 1947, and served as chairman of the board of Alpert Brothers until 1989. He was an avid reader of books on history and science fiction.

His extraordinary philanthropic contribution provided substantial support to social service agencies and to efforts to eliminate hunger and homelessness in Rhode Island.

He is survived by his brother Burt Alpert and his wife Barbara; nieces Jane and Sasha Alpert; and nephew Jed Alpert.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Jewish Family Service of R.I., 959 N. Main St., Providence, R.I. 02904.

William Y. Chaika, 79

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – William Y. Chaika, of Hallworth House, died July 24 at Hallworth House. He was the beloved husband of the late Elaine (Ostrach) Chaika. Born in New York, N.Y., a son of the late Sol and Mildred (Cohen) Chaika, he had lived in Rhode Island since the early 1950s.

William was a founding partner of the law firm of Chaika & Chaika, retiring in 2011 after 50 years in practice. He was a past master of Roosevelt Lodge of the Masons and an avid pool player. He was the father of Eric Chaika of Warwick, Daniel Chaika of Providence and the late Jeremy David Chaika. Brother of Barbara Reich of Plymouth, Mass. Grandfather of Benjamin, Jonathan, Rebecca, Alan and Sarah. Contributions in his memory may be made to Providence Animal Rescue League, 34 Elbow St., Providence, R.I. 02903.

Louis Drucker, 93

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Louis Drucker, originally of Brooklyn, N.Y., died July 28, at home surrounded by family and close friends. He was the husband of Mildred (Yellin) Drucker, a loving brother, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He is described by his family as a sweet, gentle and always curious soul, as well as a fierce intellectual.

He had a long career as an analytical chemist, with a focus on printing ink.

He instilled the value of a strong education in his daughter, and then his seven grandchildren. He and his wife traveled on Elder Hostel trips throughout the world with wide-ranging educational focuses.

Louis was an avid bowler and golfer in his younger years, and enjoyed teaching his grandchildren to hit on the driving range. His other passions included listening to classical music and opera, and attending concerts and lectures with Mildred in New York, and then later in Providence.

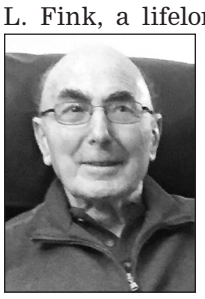
He was a proud veteran, having served as a radio operator in WWII.

He was father to the late Marjorie Thompson, and is survived by his wife, Mildred (Yellin) Drucker; his son-in-law, Ian Thompson; his sister Marylin Bennett, and brother, Rubin Drucker; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Donations in his memory may be made to Hope Hospice and Palliative Care of R.I. or Temple Emanu-El.

Edward L. Fink, 87

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Edward L. Fink, a lifelong resident of Providence, died on July 18. Eldest son of Moe and Betty (Cohen) Fink, Ed graduated from Hope High School and Brown University.



A Korean War Veteran, he returned to work at Wayside Furniture, his parents' business in East Providence, then earned a Master of Arts in Teaching in the departments of chemistry and education at Brown University. He taught chemistry at Cranston West High School for many years before serving as department chairman at Cranston East. He earned a certificate in advanced graduate studies from Rhode Island College and worked part time as a chemist at Rhode Island Hospital.

He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Ruth (Berkelhammer) Fink; children, David M. Fink (Cynthia), Jeffrey A. Fink (Deborah) and Susan M. Fink Hirsch (Steven); brothers Charles Fink (Judy) and Michael Fink (Michael); grandchildren: Aaron, Benjamin, Zachary, Sarah, Leah, Elizabeth and Jacob; in-laws Jerry and Sheila Berkelhammer; several nieces, nephews and friends. Edward was a life-long member of Temple Beth-El.

The family would like to thank the nurses, CNAs and doctors who helped him.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, Bethany Home or the charity of your choice.

Samuel B. Heymann, 49

ATTLEBORO, MASS. – Samuel B. Heymann died June 26 at home surrounded by family and friends. He was the husband of Teresa M. (Proulx) Heymann. Born in Providence, he had been a resident of Attleboro for more than 20 years. A graduate of the University of Rhode Island, he was a computer programmer with REZ-1 in Wellesley Hills, Mass.

Sam was an avid sports fan and loved baseball and football. He earned his junior black belt in American Freestyle Karate. He was a motorcycle enthusiast, loved playing poker and a good cigar. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends. He dearly loved his cats, "The Boys," Ivan and Otto.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Dana Farber Cancer Institute Inc., 450 Brookline Ave., Boston, Mass. 02215. www.dana-farber.org, or Attleboro Friends of Cats Inc., P.O. Box 283, Attleboro, Mass. 02703. www.friendsofcats.net.

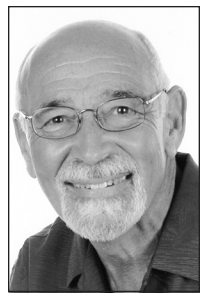
Rita Horowitz, 93

CRANSTON, R.I. – Rita Horowitz died July 19 in Naples, Fla. She was the beloved wife of the late Milton S. Horowitz. Born in Buffalo, N.Y., daughter of the late Louis and Sarah (Kalnitsky) Berger, she had lived in Cranston since 1955, previously living in Providence. Rita was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael. She was the mother of David Horowitz of Warwick, Elaine Phillips of Naples, and Davina Placella (Louis) of Glenwood, Md., sister of the late Leo Berger, sister-in-law of the late Josephine and Samuel Weiser. She was the grandmother of Matthew, Sarah, Naomi, Luke, Samuel, Nathan and Grace. Great-grandmother of Sara, Jacob, Eva, Lonneke and Rafael.

Contributions in her memory may be made to American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, www.JDC.org.

Richard A. Kaplan, 74

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Richard A. Kaplan, retired managing partner of Yarlas, Kaplan, Santilli and Moran in Providence, died on July 16. He was the beloved husband of Susan Kearney Kaplan.



He was the former husband of Nancy Kaplan and is survived by their children, Donna Figueroa and her husband Hector and Lori Selsberg and her husband David; his grandchildren Gianni, Allie and Maddy; his stepdaughter Alisha Kearney and his feline friend Max. He was the brother of the late Gerald Kaplan and his wife Sheila and uncle to Mindy Lane and her husband Bruce, Ronald Kaplan and his wife Kim, Gary Perler and his wife Lauren and Amy Strom and her husband Anders, and loved by many more. Richard proudly assumed the role for his brother as surrogate grandfather to Justin and Shari Castelli, Brandon and Devin Lane and Jerald Kaplan.

Born in Providence, son of the late Melba and James Kaplan, he was a graduate of Cranston High School, the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania and Suffolk University Law School.

He enjoyed being active and was especially passionate about sailing, traveling, snacking, taking family photos, working and serving his community, the Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots.

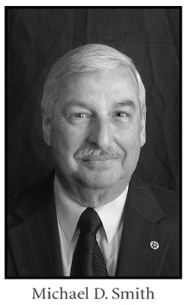
He was a Certified Public Accountant, befriending longtime clients for many years. Throughout his long career, Richard not only loved working, but he devoted a great deal of his time to his business and the Jewish community. He held many roles and served as CPA representative for the Rhode Island Bar Association, president of the CCRI Foundation and Jewish Family Service,

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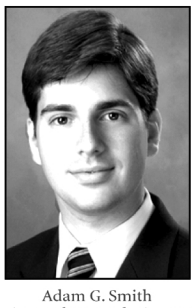
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treasurer and board member of the Providence Rotary Club and recipient of the Paul Harris Fellow Award. He was trustee of Rotary Charities Foundation, treasurer for the R.I. Alumni Club of the University of Pennsylvania and R.I. chairman of the Israel Bond Campaign, where he was honored to receive the Jerusalem 3000 Medal. He was the recipient of the Mission Award from the R.I. Society of CPAs, Lifetime Achievement Award from the Estate Planning Council of R.I., certificate of appreciation from the R.I. Bar Association & Foundation and the Advocate Award from the Small Business Administration Accounting.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Attn: Kristen Allen at YKSM CPAs, 27 Dryden Lane, Providence, RI 02904 or http://pmc.org/SK0207.

Frances Katzanek, 84

BRISTOL, R.I. – Frances Katzanek passed away July 6. She was the wife of the late Bertram Katzanek; they were married for 33 years. She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., the daughter of the late Abraham and Yetta (Steingart) Meltzer.

Frances was the former director of career counseling at Roger Williams University for 25 years. She was a lifelong learner, avid traveler and cherished her time volunteering and teaching English as a second language to newly arrived immigrants.

She is survived by her children Andrew Katzanek, Jay Katzanek and Sheryl Katzanek-Sacon, and their spouses; and grandchildren Jessica, Rebecca, Courtney, Allison and Brandon.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Jewish Family Services, 959 N Main St., Providence, R.I. 02904; Bristol Animal Shelter, 10 Minturn Farm Road, Bristol, R.I. 02809; or to the charity of your choice.com.

Rhoda Hodosh Greenberg-Kenney, 87

WARWICK, R.I. – Rhoda Hodosh Greenberg-Kenney of Killey Avenue died June 26 at Philip Hulitar Inpatient Center. She was the wife of John Kenney. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Hyman and Julia (Rudolph) Hodosh, she was a longtime resident of Warwick.

Devoted mother of Linda Susan Killian of Wilmington, N.C., Jeffrey Tod Greenberg of Pawtucket, and the late Howard Elliot Greenberg. Dear sister of George Hodosh and the late Leonard Hodosh. Loving grandmother of Holland, Doria, Stephen, Audra, Blaire, Elizabeth, and Stephanie.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Hope Hospice & Palliative Care, 1085 N. Main St., Providence, R.I. 02904.

Carolyn R. Kessler, 72

CRANSTON, R.I. – Carolyn R. Kessler of Hamden Road died June 30 at Philip Hulitar Inpatient Center. She was the beloved wife of the late Harold I. Kessler. Born in Boston, a daughter of the late Samuel and Laura (Lakin) Kaiserman, she was a longtime resident of Cranston.

She attended Maimonides School and the former Girls Latin School, both in Boston. Carolyn was a former member of Temple Torat Yisrael. Devoted mother of Amy Frank and her husband, Michael, of East Greenwich, and Jennie Mayhew and her husband, Timothy, of Foxboro, Mass. She was the sister of Sidney Kaiserman and his wife, Meri, of Duluth, Ga., grandmother of Joshua, Arielle, Jacob, Tessa and Reyna.

Contributions in her memory may be made to American Lung Association, 260 W. Exchange St., #102B, Providence, R.I. 02903 or Hope Hospice & Palliative Care, 1085 N. Main St., Providence, R.I. 02904.

Gloria E. Levenson, 88

CRANSTON, R.I. – Gloria E. Levenson died July 17 at Greenwood Center, Warwick. She was the beloved wife of the late Burton Levenson. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Everett and Dorothy (Brynes) Zlochin, she had lived in Cranston for 40 years, previously living in Providence. She worked for the Providence School Department and was also a real estate broker until her retirement.

She was a member of Temple Am David and was an avid mahjong player. Devoted mother of Everett Levenson and his wife, Linda, of Stoughton, Mass., and Richard Levenson and his wife, Jane, of Warwick. Sister of the late Beverly Aron, grandmother of Adam, Joshua and Zachary. She was the aunt of Faye and Ilene, great-aunt of AJ and great-great aunt of Madysyn.

Contributions in her memory may be made to National Parkinson Foundation, 200 SE 1st St., Suite 800, Miami, Fla. 33131.

Elaine C. Levy, 88

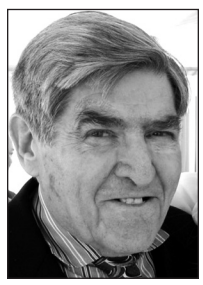
PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Elaine C. (Yosinoff) Levy died July 21. Born in Providence, she was the daughter of the late Solomon and Minnie (Potter) Yosinoff. A lifelong resident of Providence, she was a secretary for 16 years with the Providence School Department. Prior to that she was a secretary with the Providence Hebrew Day School, retiring in 1995.

Ms. Levy was a member of Temple Emanu-El and its leisure club, a life member of the former Pioneer Women, now known as Na'Amat, and a member of the Alumni Bowling League in Cranston, Cranston Senior Guild, and the Hebrew Free Loan Association.

She is survived by her children: Miriam Levy Albert and her husband Andrew Abramson, and Sara Levy and her husband Robert Padilla; her grandchildren Zoe and Jacob; and her brother Louis Yosinoff. She was the sister of the late Peter and Maurice Yosinoff.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Temple Emanu-El Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

Nathan Ludman, 91

WEST BLOOMFIELD, MICH. – 
Nathan Ludman died July 28 at the Fleischman Residence in West Bloomfield, Mich. He was the loving husband of the late Sally (Topal) Ludman.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Samuel and Rebecca (Weinstein) Ludman, he had lived in Michigan since 2004, and previously in Providence and Cranston. He was an industrial engineer until his retirement at age 75.


Nathan was a WWII Navy veteran, Lieutenant Junior Grade, serving in the Asiatic-Pacific Philippine Liberation Victory and as a Jewish War Veterans Post Commander. He was a graduate of Brown University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1944 and a Master of Science in Applied Mathematics in 1948 and attended U.S. Navy service schools including Midshipman School, Annapolis, and Diesel School, Cornell University. He was the devoted father of Anita Ludman; Dianne Ludman Frank and her husband, Richard; and Sharon Exley and her husband, Peter. He was the beloved grandfather of Emma Exley and Rebecca and Sophia Frank and brother of Dr. Harold Ludman and Norma Cohen. He was an avid reader and sports fan enthusiast and enjoyed dancing with his wife and swimming in Narragansett Bay.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Jewish Senior Life, earmark for Fleischman Activities, 6710 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield, Mich. 48322. His family extends deep gratitude to all those who cared for him, including the Fleischman Residence, Heart to Heart Hospice and his caregivers.

Devioune J. Mayim-Daviau, 57

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Devioune J. Mayim-Daviau died July 15. Born in Fort Benning, Ga., she was the daughter of Ronald and the late Janet Daviau.

Devioune, an entrepreneur having owned multiple businesses in the past, was the proud owner of the award-winning Mister Sister Erotica on Wickenden Street in Providence. For her unwavering community support and generous spirit, she received the R.I. Spirit of Pride Award in 2012.



She is survived by her father Ronald Jospeh Daviau Sr.; sister Diane Marie Grano and her husband Gregorio; brothers Ronald Joseph Daviau Jr., David William Daviau, and Michael Joseph Daviau; nieces and nephews Joseph, Jainine, Joshua, Heather, Mark, Kailie and Mackenzie.

Devioune was passionate about giving back to the LGBTQ community she loved and felt a part of.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Rhode Island Pride, P.O. Box 1082, Providence, R.I. 02901; AIDS Care Ocean State, 18 Parkis Ave., Providence, R.I. 02907 and/or AIDS Project R.I. c/o Family Service of Rhode Island, P.O. Box 6688, Providence, R.I. 02940.

Judah Rosen, 95

CRANSTON, R.I. – Judah Rosen died July 30. He was the husband of the late Dorothy (Backner) Rosen. Born in Philadelphia, Pa., a son of the late Isaac and Rose (Stampfer) Rosen, he had lived in Cranston since 1961, previously living in Providence.

He was the president of Nesor Inc. for 30 years, retiring in 1983. Judah was a WWII Army Air Corps veteran, serving in the European Theatre. He was a member and former chaplain of Touro Fraternal Association, Redwood Lodge of the Masons and the Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of R.I. Judah and his wife enjoyed traveling with the Cranston Senior Guild of which he was a past president.

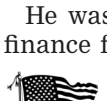


He was the father of Craig Rosen and his wife, Sharon (Kirker), of Assonet, Mass., and Reid A. Rosen of N.Y. Brother of six predeceased siblings. Grandfather of Chad Rosen and his wife, Becky (Coutu), and Katie (Rosen) Glover and her husband, Jason. Great-grandfather of Samantha, Nathaniel, Zoë, Robert and Maya. Contributions in his memory may be made to Hope Hospice & Palliative Care, 1085 North Main St., Providence, R.I. 02904.

Joslin 'Jos' Ross, 91

CRANSTON, R.I. – Joslin "Jos" Ross died July 18 at home. He was the beloved husband of the late Thelma "Tek" (Klitzner) Ross. Born in Providence, a son of the late Louis and Sarah (Bernstein) Ross, he was a longtime resident of Cranston.

He was the vice president of finance for Klitzner Industries in Providence for 35 years, retiring in 1990. Jos was a WWII Navy veteran, serving in Pacific Theatre as a 3rd Marine Division Radio Man. He graduated from Central High School and Bryant College. Jos was a member of the former Temple Beth-Israel and Temple Beth-El. He was also a member of the Masons and Quidnessett and Ledgemont Country Clubs.



Devoted father of Lynn Field and her husband, Alan, of North Providence; and Dyann Ross and her husband, Eric Stein, of Fairfield, Conn. He was the brother of the late Ann Levin, grandfather of Ryan and Brendan Malloney and April Stein. Great-grandfather of Shoshana and Levi Stein. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Jewish War Veterans of R.I., P.O. Box 100064, Cranston, R.I. 02910 or your favorite charity.

Sylvia Schoenberg, 94

CRANSTON, R.I. – Sylvia Schoenberg died July 28 at home. She was the wife of the late Leonard Schoenberg. Born in Providence, she had lived in Cranston for more than 50 years.

Sylvia was a teacher's aide in Eden Park School for several years. She was a member of West Bay Community Jewish Center and Hadassah, and she volunteered at the Cranston Senior Center. Sylvia was a graduate of Hope High School. Devoted mother of Robert Schoenberg of Cambridge, Mass. and Harvey Schoenberg of Narragansett. Sister of the late Murray "Mac" and Irving Pedliken, Molly Dubovick and Ann Cohen. Contributions in her memory may be made to West Bay Community Jewish Center, 2 Brenda Drive, Coventry, R.I. 02816.

Harry Shore, 98

GAINESVILLE, FLA. – Harry Shore, of Gainesville, died peacefully on June 30 surrounded by immediate family members and care-givers. He was preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, Beatrice (Nemtzow) Shore.

Born in Providence on July 23, 1917, he was the son of the late Max and Esther Shore. He will be remembered by his three children: Michael (Gail), Elon (Stephen) and Jeffrey (Carol). He was the beloved grandpa to five grandchildren: Wendy, Nile, Scarlet, Julian and Robin, and one great-grandson Ross. He leaves many nieces and nephews as well as a former daughter-in-law Sue Shore. The family would like to extend their appreciation to his loyal and loving caretaker, Tracey Young of Gainesville, Fla.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906, or Haven Hospice, devmail@havenhospice.org.

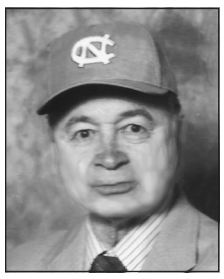
Nathan Barrie Shore, 84

EAST GREENWICH, R.I. – Nathan Barrie Shore died June 28. He is survived by his wife of 29

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years, Rula Patterson Shore.

He was born in Worcester, Mass., the son of the late Albert and Ethel (Lurier) Shore.

He graduated from Moses Brown School in 1949 and earned a B.S. in Business Administration from Boston University's Questrom School of Business in 1953.



He was a veteran of the United States Army, serving from 1953 to 1955.

He followed the family tradition of entrepreneurship throughout his life. He owned and operated White City and White City East in Shrewsbury, Mass., for more than 40 years. Like his father, he was financially involved with many other successful real estate investments. He was a member of Temple Beth-El and the Aurora Civic Association in Providence.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his son William Shore and his wife Amy Yifan Zhou; sister Marjorie Gilbert and her husband Tom; nephews Billy and Douglas Gorlin; and niece Wendy Tayer.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the charity of your choice.

Leila Sock

CRANSTON, R.I. – Leila Sock, of Betsy Williams Drive, died July 16 at home. She was the wife of Sheldon Sock. Born in Plisa, Poland, a daughter of the late Jacob and Gita (Diment) Lake, she was a longtime resident of Cranston. Leila was a member of Temple Beth-El, a life member of Hadassah, the Miriam Hospital Women's Association, Jewish Home for the Aged and many other organizations. She was the mother of Philip Sock and his wife, Gayle, of Narragansett and Sharon Sabbagh and her husband, Tal, of Newton, Mass. She was the sister of Harold Lake and the late Irving Lake. She was the grandmother of Joshua, Aliza, Daniel, Jonathan, David and Gillian and the cherished great-grandmother of Billy, Julian and Ella.

Contributions in her memory may be made to your favorite charity.

Sherril Ruth Sussman, 81

EAST GREENWICH, R.I. – Sherril Ruth (Moskowitz) Sussman, of East Greenwich, died on July 12. She grew up in Bronx, N.Y. and raised her three children in Brooklyn. She was a loving mother and the cherished wife of Jay Sussman, to whom she was married for 34 years.

Sherril is survived by her daughter, Rowena Burke and her husband, Joseph, of Wellesley, Mass.; two sons, Glenn Ambinder and his wife, Susie, of Katonah, N.Y., and Harris Ambinder and his wife, Vicky, of Portland, Ore. She also leaves behind her stepson, Harris Sussman and his wife, Debra; her two stepdaughters, Lori Land and her husband, Kevin, and Julie Sussman. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Simone, Jessica, Scott, Julie, Elizabeth, Ariel, Ethan, Samantha and Alexandra. She also leaves behind her devoted sister, Sue Ross and her husband, Sonny, of Tucson, Ariz.; her sister-in-law, Gladys Morse, wife of Sherril's late brother, Eugene, of Delray Beach, Fla.; and her brother Seymour Morse of Beverly, Mass.; as well as many cherished nieces, nephews and friends.

Contributions in her memory may be made to The Pap Corps, 1166 W Newport Center Drive, #114, Deerfield Beach, Fla. 33442 or Alzheimer's Association, 245 Waterman St., Providence, R.I. 02906.

Sylvia Tippe, 98

CRANSTON, R.I. – Sylvia Tippe, of the Scandinavian Home, died July 13 at the home. She was the wife of the late Samuel Tippe. Born in Springfield, Mass., a daughter of the late William and Ruth (Feldman) Luchtiker, she had lived in Providence, Warwick and Cranston.

She was a secretary at Kent County Memorial Hospital in the laboratory office for 10 years, retiring 32 years ago. After her retirement, she volunteered at the Department of Elderly Affairs for 10 years, then at Temple Torat Yisrael for 10 years in the office. She was a graduate of Morris High School in Bronx, N.Y., and attended Providence College. Sylvia was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael and its sisterhood, Cranston Senior Guild and a former member of Temple Emanu-El's Leisure Club. She was an avid reader.

She was the mother of Stephen P. Tippe of Cranston and the late Ronald E. Tippe. Mother-in-law of Molly Maginnis Tippe of Brooklyn, sister of Milton Luchtiker of Nevada and Lawrence Luchtiker of California and grandmother of Annie and Samuel.

Contributions in her memory may be made to The American Cancer Society, 931 Jefferson Blvd., Suite 3004, Warwick, R.I. 02886.

Ruth L. Tolchinsky, 97

EAST GREENWICH, R.I. – Ruth L. Tolchinsky died June 24 at St. Elizabeth's Home. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Samuel and Eva (Youngstein) Labush, she was a longtime resident of Warwick until recently moving to East Greenwich.

She was a teacher at Wyman Elementary School in Warwick for 26 years, retiring in 1984. Ruth was a former member of Temple Emanu-El, the Women's Auxiliary at Miriam Hospital, and a life member of Hadassah. She enjoyed performing in plays and singing, and going to the theater. She volunteered at Save the Bay and the Providence Convention Center Visitors Bureau. She was also a sports fan, an avid bridge and tennis player, and a den mother.

She was the mother of Kenneth Tolchinsky and his wife, Joanne, of Warwick; and Janice Shapiro and her husband, Howard, of Cranston, sister of the late Irene Shlevin, Selma Goldman, and Pearl Labush. Loving grandmother of Derek, Carole, Stephanie, Stacy, and Terri. Great-grandmother of Shayne, Malcolm, Londyn, Rivyr and Emma.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906.





Bill Clinton eulogizes Mark Weiner at temple funeral service

JTA — Saying "No one will ever think of him for more than 30 seconds without breaking into a smile," former President Bill Clinton delivered the eulogy at the funeral of Mark Weiner, a longtime Democratic activist and fundraiser.

Clinton's wife, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton — along with other prominent local, state and national political leaders — also attended the Aug. 2 funeral service at Temple Beth-El in Providence.

Weiner, 62, died July 26 of leukemia. That evening, Bill Clinton noted during his speech at the Democratic National Convention that he and Hillary "cried together this morning on the news that our good friend … Mark Weiner, passed away early this morning."

In a tweet before the service began, the Rev. Jesse Jackson said: "#RIP, my brother beloved #MarkWeiner. I cannot put into words how much I do and will always miss him."

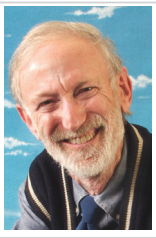
Weiner, a former chairman of Rhode Island's Democratic Party, manufactured paraphernalia for the Democratic National Committee, among other clients.

He had been elected a delegate to last week's convention in Philadelphia and hoped to see Clinton nominated. But the ailing Weiner could not attend and was replaced by his wife, Susan.

Weiner met Hillary Clinton in 1976 while volunteering for Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign.

Along with his wife, Weiner is survived by four children, Cathy, Steven, Zoe and Richard; a son-in-law, Brian Bunnin; and two grandchildren, Maxwell and Bennett.

In small, odd things, memories live on



SKETCHBOOK

MIKE FINK

No piping plovers at the dunes, but I checked out Moonstone Beach and a single sandpiper came from the shoreline to greet me.

Another day – a foggy/misty morn – as I strolled from the towers to the oblong where the Narrow River pours into Narragansett Bay, I found a solitary waterfowl, an avocet I think, short but with a long curved beak and heron-like legs. Perhaps it was a Stilt. It made up for my disappointment in not coming across cliff swallows or arctic terns.

I thought of the lyrics to a French song I heard on the radio in Paris in 1953! I believe it was sung by Sartre's muse Juliette Greco. I translate it as, "Alone on the earth, take it in for what it's worth."

So here goes: I like little mementos to keep my past from vanishing into the void. So I shop at Hallmark and collect wee ceramic models based on early Disney kid stuff. I bought – not without a little hesitation – a butterfly with American flags as wings. I keep it on the mantel of the iron stove in the parlor of our South County summer retreat. I opted for this from among such choices as a cute Bambi and a baby Dumbo with his giant pachyderm mama because I can't figure out the patriotic symbolism of a summer insect. I admire things I don't fully grasp.

Our granddaughters paid us a call and the eldest, 9-year-old Floie, dragged me by the wrist to a dead-end street to confront … a pirate ship! Sure enough, strangely, there was, indeed, a black seacraft with ebony sails, a Jolly Roger flag with its skull and crossbones, and a golden mermaid as the figurehead. It was huge! And moored at the harbor on Harcourt Avenue.

How did it get there? Who made it, and why? Flo's sisters pooh-poohed it a bit, claiming disdainfully, "It's made of cardboard!" Indeed, the hull was seaworthy but the details and decorations were paper.

I had absolutely no idea who created this huge toy right up my alley, such a surprise!

"Shh, don't tell your parents, let's keep this our secret, at least for a day," I told them, although I don't know why. The snapshots are as dark and dim as my facts here.

Now, I have more somewhat-eccentric reports to file.

I came across a worn-out 1960 Dunes Club towel soaked with saltwater in a moon-high tide on a long-gone August day, and took it home in my canoe. I have now taken it, frayed and threadbare, to a fancy framer. I hope to hide my unusual masterpiece in a mostly forgotten corner wall in the loft, but laying eyes on it will bring back memories of summer to battle the amnesia of time.

As I take my morning, or late afternoon, splash along the wet edge of the sea, I think of young people of long ago, or friends or relatives who have passed away, and I bring them back into my memory. It's almost an obsession, or a belief that souls watch over us, or judge us, or miss us as we miss them. I know it's nonsense, but then, I am nonsense as well.

"I was named for a grandfather that my mom disliked. I asked her why she honored her foe and translated his name into mine … She said, 'Everybody deserves to be remembered'!"

Sometimes someone whose name I don't even know will greet me and keep me company during these meanderings and wanderings. I don't walk fast, no, no, no, I slow down, I don't exercise.

I also pay a few visits to my allies of August. I bike or hike, or drive my Fiat and park in the driveway, to pop in on Rose Epstein. This fine lady, a writer, a great-grandmother, and a sponsor, some Augusts ago, of a local circus, makes me a cup of coffee – in a floral ceramic cup, with a saucer and a spoon - and tells me about her life both long ago and current.

"I was named for a grandfather that my mom disliked, hated in fact. So I asked her once why she honored her foe and translated his name into mine. She gave me an astonishing answer. She said, 'Everybody deserves to be remembered'!"

I thanked her most sincerely for that lesson and for her genuine hospitality as we sat before the picture window and watched the kayaks going by peacefully and the Canada geese and swans floating or cruising along. I thought: "Take everything in stride and for its value." I can't write biographies, it gets me in trouble. All I can do is offer this account of my own quests.

MIKE FINK (mfink33@aol.com) teaches at the R.I. School of Design.

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IMPORTANT DATES:

Optional Workshop	Monday, August 22
Submission Date	Wednesday, October 5
Award & Exhibition	Tuesday, December 13

CONTACT: Jana Brenman at 401.421.4111 ext. 181 or jbrenman@jewishallianceri.org for guidelines and more information. jewishallianceri.org/contest

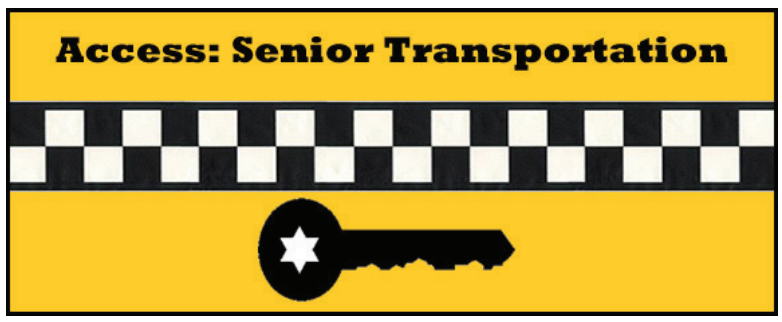
*Eligible teens must reside in Rhode Island

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WE ARE READ IN ISRAEL – Yaniv Havusha, Jewish Student Life associate at the University of Rhode Island Hillel, visited with URI students (left to right) Stephanie Pagelson, Jessica Fischer and Lindsay Denenberg. The students are interns in Israel this summer.





HAPPY ANNIVERSARY – Alfred and Marilyn Factor, of Cranston, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 22. As a toast to his wife, Alfred quoted from the poem "How do I love thee?"



WE ARE READ AT MASADA – Greg Kaiser, Evan Kaiser and Karen Tashima, of Seekonk, Massachusetts, took The Jewish Voice to Masada at sunrise on July 6.



WE ARE READ IN JERUSALEM – Grace Novick, of Providence, with her son Reuben Beiser in front of Mike's Place, his restaurant/bar on Yafo Street in Jerusalem. Reuben attended Providence Hebrew Day School, Classical High School and Brown University. He made *aliyah* after college and received an architecture degree at Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem. In addition to practicing architecture, for the past six years he has owned and run the Jerusalem franchise of Mike's Place.

Reuben lives with his wife Tehila and their three children in north Jerusalem. Grace travels to Israel yearly to spend time with Reuben and his family, as well as her son Benjamin Beiser and his family, who live just outside Jerusalem. Benjamin, a rabbi, teaches at Yeshiva Mevaseret Zion.





The Rhode Island delegation to the RNC

Four Jewish Republicans were part of the Rhode Island delegation to the recent Republican National Convention in Cleveland (left to right, above): David Talan (holding the Jewish Voice) from Providence is the vice-chairman of the state Republican Party; Rebecca Schiff from Jamestown teaches at the Naval War College in Newport; Eileen Grossman is an assistant to the finance director in Cranston; Martha Wallick from Barrington is the secretary of the town's Republican committee.



Temple members pictured with the award are (left to right) Marilyn Myrow, David Leach, Dr. Audrey Kupchan and Paula Sigal.

Temple Emanu-El named 'Partner Organization of Year'

On July 14 at an evening reception in Providence, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence (RICAGV) presented Temple Emanu-El, Providence, with a framed certificate of appreciation as Partner Organization of the Year for its work to promote gun safety and reduce gun violence. RICAGV has 95 partner agencies, including the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island, several synagogues, the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and other faith groups. Also receiving awards were members of the legislature who introduced gun safety and domestic violence legislation, the Providence police chief and public safety commissioner, and other volunteers. Local legislators who were honored included Sen. Josh Miller of Cranston, Sen. Gayle Goldin and Rep. Aaron Regunberg of Providence.

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