the JEWISH VOICE

Volume XXII, Issue IV | www.thejewishvoice.org
Serving Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts

10 Adar I 5776 | February 19, 2016

CAMP

Reflections on the Damascus gate attacks

BY GILOR MESHULAM

A few weeks ago, I was asked to come to Israel – to be interviewed for a Judaic Studies-Education fellowship at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Eventually, after I got the dates that I would be visiting Israel and going to Jerusalem – I was thrilled – thrilled to continue my work with Judaism and education. On Feb. 3, I went to Mt. Scopus for my interview. As soon as I finished, I went on my way to see a friend who lives in Jerusalem. While driving through the streets of Jerusalem, and then finding a parking spot by the Damascus Gate, I saw it.

A huge crowd gathered from all over. Dozens of police were running toward where I was standing. I didn't know what happened. All I knew is that something probably happened.

Since I haven't been in Israel in the last few months, I didn't know what the feelings in the streets are. Even though I read the news more than a dozen times a day, it's nothing like living in the middle of it.

Then I understood: I'm in the middle of a terror attack. People seemed eager to help the police forces, running around, feeling helpless, scared – but not broken. Trying to be protective, the police asked the crowd to move away, since they suspected it was just a decoy to a larger attack, and so we did. I moved away and went to see my friend, who lives right across from the Damascus Gate. He wasn't scared. After almost seven years in the army, I got scared. He seemed used to it. He said that it is unfortunate, but that's the routine.

These thoughts do not leave me. An hour later, we went to the Kotel, which was almost

DAMASCUS GATE | 7



PHOTOS | CAMP JORI

Thoughts of summer

Scenes of Camp JORI have us thinking about camp. See pages 16-21.



Justice Antonin Scalia

REMEMBRANCE

The Supreme Court's Jewish gentile: My memories of Justice Scalia

BY NATHAN LEWIN

WASHINGTON (JTA) – "When there was no Jewish justice on the Supreme Court," Antonin "Nino" Scalia told me, "I considered myself the Jewish justice."

After Abe Fortas resigned in May 1969, there would be no Jewish justice on the court for nearly a quarter of a century, until President Bill Clinton named Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the court in 1993.

Scalia had been on the Supreme Court since Ronald Reagan appointed him in 1986, so there were seven years during which Scalia saw himself as the court's guardian of Jewish heritage. The New York-raised judge was shocked that he had to teach his colleagues how to pronounce "yeshiva" (Chief Justice Rehnquist William called it "ye-shy-va") and, Scalia added proudly to me, "I even told them what a yeshiva is."

Scalia's admiration for Jews and Jewish learning explains the frequent references in his opinions to the Talmud and other Jewish sources, and the significant number of Orthodox Jewish law clerks he hired.

We were both in the Harvard Law School class that began in 1957 and graduated in 1960 – only 10 women and no African-Americans were in a graduating class of almost 500. Scalia and I were invited to become editors of the Harvard Law Review at the conclusion of our freshman year; in those days Law Review membership depended entirely on grades.

Scalia and I were the highest-ranking bachelors in our law school class. Why was marital status relevant? Because in the 1950s,

REMEMBRANCE | 9



INSIDE

Business 24-25
Calendar 11
Camp 16-21
Classified 25
Community 2-7, 10-11, 13, 22, 26, 31
D'Var Torah 7
Food 12
Health & Wellness 29
Israel 14
Kids 14
Nation 15, 23
Obituaries 27
Opinion 8-9
Seniors 28
We Are Read 31

THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE

"Some praised Nino's wisdom; others were ready to stone him."

New ECC director excited about early children education

BY FRAN OSTENDORF

Jo-Anne DeGiacomo-Petrie is bringing a lot of enthusiasm, along with years of early childhood education experience, to her job as the new director of The David C. Isenberg Family Early Childhood Center.

Petrie, who started Feb. 15, positively glows when she talks about the possibilities of working with the ECC teachers, staff, children and parents.

"I'm really excited," she said recently. "I'm looking forward to working with an engaged population, adults invested in children's educational journey. I'm looking forward to helping teachers learn and grow."

Early childhood education is so important, she points out. "We need to take early learning more seriously," she said. "I'm thrilled that early childhood educators are looked upon differently and given a greater level of respect."

Petrie's background will stand her in good stead as she learns the ropes at the ECC. A Barrington resident, she's married and has three children (two in college and one who's graduated) and a cat. She spent 30 years as an early childhood teacher at The Wheeler School. Among other related experiences, she served as director of early learning and school age programming



Jo-Anne DeGiacomo-Petrie

at John Hope Settlement House in Providence and as manager of operations at BrightStars, Rhode Island's tiered quality rating system for schools and early childhood programs. She's also been a consultant to Hasbro.

Creativity is a word she uses often when talking about the ECC going forward: From refining curriculum to weaving Jewish values into it. "I'm looking for ways to be more collaborative with the whole JCC program … to feel inclusive," she said.

Petrie wants to inspire teachers and give them input into shaping the program. "I'm looking forward to drawing up the interests and passions of teachers, based on Rhode Island Education Learning Standards (RELS)," she said.

She says she tends to be a team player, so, she's looking forward to hearing what the community has to say. "Drop by. Grab a coffee. Don't be a stranger," Petrie said. "I'm looking forward to working with the JCC community."

FRAN OSTENDORF is editor of the Jewish Voice.

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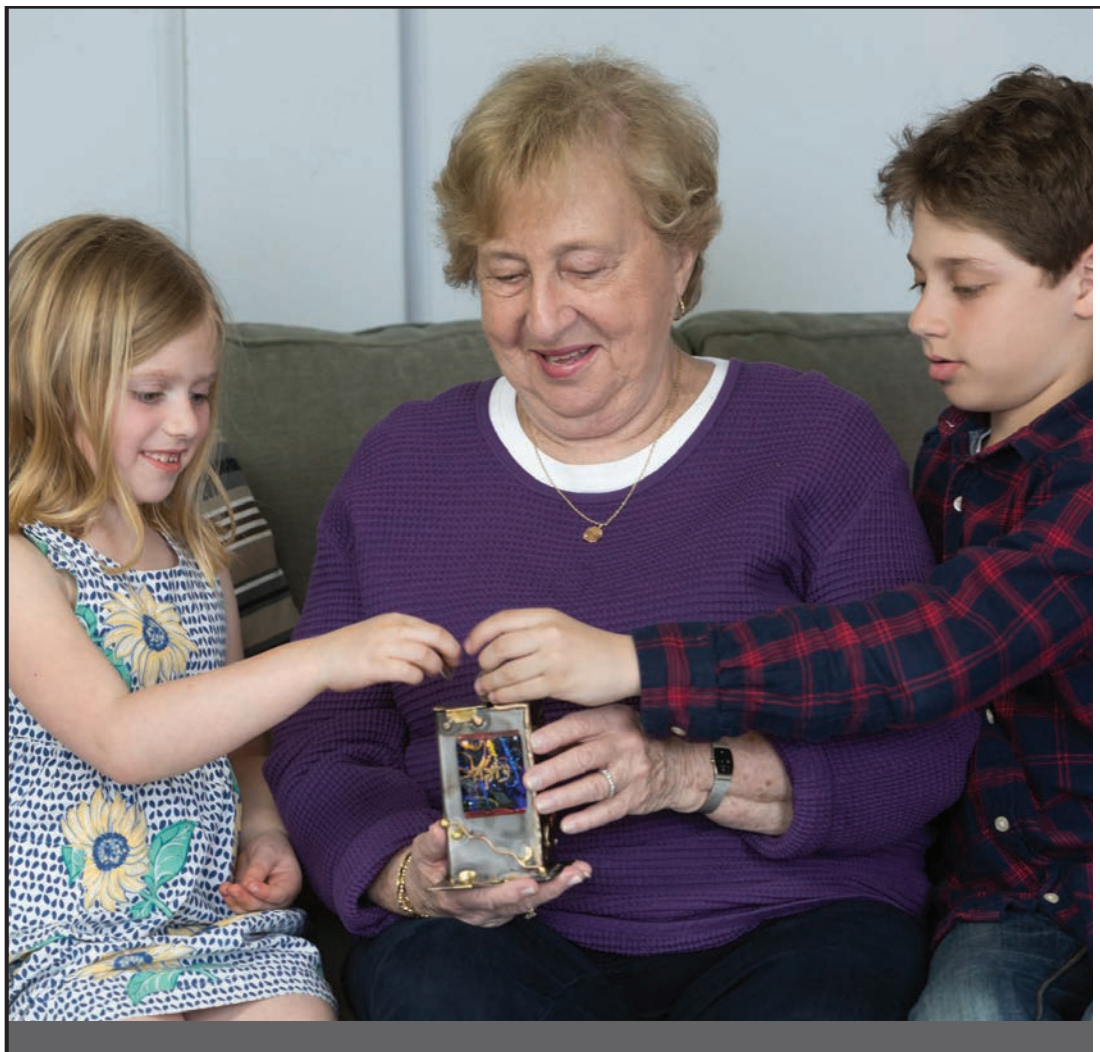
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Jewish Federation Foundation
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Emanu-El's 'Eclectricity!' to brim with talent, great tastes

BY LINDA SHAMOON

Rhode Island's got talent, of course. Rhode Island's Jewish community has oodles of talent especially musical talent.

We have vocal soloists, a cappella singers, satirical Purim spielers, rock 'n' roll bands, tunes from the Broadway songbook, Yiddish theater, Hebrew and Israeli composers, and tunes from 1970s and 1980s rock. We've got them all! On March 12 at 7 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El Providence, you will find them all during "Eclectricity! Music, Food and a Fun Night Out."

The jam-packed evening of talent opens with a set by a local favorite: Amy Olson, along with accordionist Christina Crowder and percussionist Michael Goldberg. Olson will offer a sampling of Yiddish and Broadway show tunes in a cabaret setting. She has performed with klezmer bands in Minnesota and Rhode Island and has been featured as a guest artist with the International Association of Yiddish Clubs. Dubbed "The Diva of the Yeshiva," Olson made her New York City cabaret debut at the Cornelia Street Café in Greenwich Village in 2013. She is the executive director of University of Rhode Island Hillel.

After Olson, the Alef Beats, Brown RISD's premier Jewish-themed a cappella singing group, takes the stage. The group, whose members come from all over the U.S., came together because of a love of music and a passion for Jewish culture. Its repertoire runs the gamut from Ethiopian *niguns* to Lonely



Amy Olson

Island remakes and includes a dollop of traditional Hebrew and Yiddish tunes. Infused with melodic sparkle and one-of-a-kind musical swagger, the Alef Beats will have audience members tapping their toes and demanding an encore.

After a break for a locally themed and prepared buffet, as well as a sneak preview of this year's Purim spiel at Emanu-El, the Oak Hill Band takes center stage. The band members hail from throughout Rhode Island and several are veterans of Temple Emanu-El's Purim spiels. The happy spiel spirit is definitely part of the performance. The band's motto: "vintage rock, R&B, blues, folk, country – dancing shoes recommended." Eclectricity, indeed!

Of course, these days, Providence's got talent in music and in food. The buffet for Eclectricity is sure to prove this point. The focus will be on Rhode Island tastes and treats. The buffet selections for the evening will be wide-ranging.

Eclectricity is the first of three



The Oak Hill Band

events offered this spring by Arts Emanu-El at Temple Emanu-El. On April 3, Arts Emanu-El will host its first art exhibit, featuring deeply moving photographs of Jewish Poland, taken by artist and photographer Alan Metnick. On May 4, Arts Emanu-El will join with the Yom Ha-Shoah Committee of Temple Emanu-El to present a performance of "Phoenix from the Ashes: Terezin in Words and Music" by Judith Lynn Stillman. Reservations for each event are available three weeks prior to the event date.

To purchase tickets for Eclectricity on March 12 at 7 p.m., visit TEProv.org or send a check to: Temple Emanu-El; 99 Taft Ave.; Prov., RI 02906. Note: Ticket price includes entertainment and buffet. Beer and wine charged by the glass. Early purchase: $12; $15 at the door.

LINDA SHAMOON is co-chair of Arts Emanu-El at Temple Emanu-El in Providence.



The Alef Beats

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For more information or to RSVP, contact Gilor Meshulam at 401.421.4111 ext. 121.

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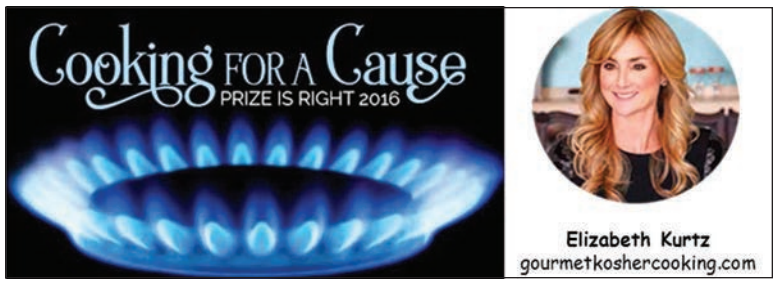
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Cooking for a Cause: PHDS brings Jewish education to the head of the table

Join the Providence Hebrew Day School (PHDS) community as they celebrate Kosher cuisine and present a multiple-bidding auction in support of Jewish education in the local community at their 19th annual "Prize is Right: Cooking for a Cause" event on March 6 at 5:30 p.m. at the Providence Marriott Hotel. Proceeds from the Prize is Right raffle and auction go to the PHDS scholarship fund to provide financial aid to families in need.

The evening will feature a cooking demonstration and tasting led by Elizabeth Kurtz, whose website gourmetkoshercooking.com has become the go-to Kosher recipe site for thousands of readers. Watch and learn how Kurtz prepares three delectable recipes from her newly published book, "Celebrate: Food, Family, Shabbos," while enjoying a taste of each Kosher creation. With a $250 raffle ticket purchase, you can take home a copy of her hardcover book.

Starting now and continuing as a live auction at the event, The Prize is Right offers more than 30 different prizes such as electronics, high-end cookware, games and toys for kids, fine wine, gift certificates and much more. The dedicated prize website is now open for bidding; and you need not be present to win. Browse the prizes and bid on your favorites now at www.pir2016.com.

Since 1946, Providence Hebrew Day School (PHDS) has matriculated hundreds with a cutting-edge education. PHDS offers all Jewish children an excellent preparation for college, career and life.

In support of their efforts, Ellen Benz, a PHDS parent, states, "PHDS is a school which does not simply 'teach' Judaism – they live the values which they teach day in and day out – thus, graduating students who are ethical, respectful, kind, considerate human beings, ready to make a difference in this world. Our community (and the world at large) needs more such young people. However, Jewish education is costly and we've relied on the generosity of our supporters throughout the years to operate this fine institution. We are now facing a critical time, with a difficult economic situation barely behind us and we need your help today. By supporting this event, you will enable all Jewish families in Rhode Island to provide a quality Jewish education for their children."

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the Providence Hebrew Day School and The Prize is Right: Cooking for a Cause, visit the website at pir2016.com or contact Rachel Lewin at 401-331-5327, ext. 20.

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Nancy Whitcomb, "Winter Blues" oils

Gallery features mixed show for spring

The spring season at the Gallery at Temple Habonim opens with an exhibit of the work of two outstanding artists and a talented group of children.

The exhibit will feature encaustics and oils by Nancy Whitcomb, underwater photography by Temple-Habonim member Neil Greenspan and a mural entitled "L'dor V'dor," created by the Temple Habonim Religious School students, which traces the Jewish journeys of their ancestors.

The exhibit is on view from March 6 through May 4, with an artists' reception March 6 from 1 to 3 p.m.

The Gallery at Temple Habonim is at 165 New Meadow Road in Barrington. Gallery hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment. For information, call 401-245-6536 or email gallery@templehabonim.org.



PHOTOS | TEMPLE HABONIM

Neil Greenspan, "Untitled" photography

the JEWISH VOICE

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THE JEWISH VOICE (ISSN number 1539-2104, USPS #465-710) is published bi-weekly, except in July, when it does not publish.

PERIODICALS Postage paid at Providence, R.I.

POSTMASTER Send address changes to: The Jewish Voice, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

PUBLISHER The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, Chair Sharon Gaines, President/CEO Jeffrey K. Savit, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906.
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MEMBER of the Rhode Island Press Association

COPY DEADLINES: All news releases, photographs, etc., must be received on the Wednesday two weeks prior to publication. Submissions may be sent to: editor@jewishallianceri.org.

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Reading event for all booklovers

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

Robin Kall-Homonoff is at it again with a new literary venture. Only this time, she's switching gears from formal and talk show-style to informal and author-centered. Point Street Reading Series will have its first event on March 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Point Street Dueling Pianos, Davol Square, Providence. Kall-Homonoff says this is the first event she's organized that will not have a guest list. Her goal is simply to bring all types of booklovers together. And, no, it's not a book club.

Lover of all things literary and affectionately known to some as "the Fairy Bookmother," Kall-Homonoff has booked five authors for the night to read excerpts from their own novels. She explains that attendees don't need to read the book beforehand – just come out for a relaxed evening of listening, chilling out and appreciation. The venue, Dueling Pianos, is a big space with lots of tables and a cool, classy vibe. A wall of mounted records takes up a large part of the wall next to the stage where two pianos sit.

"My main goal is creating a sense of community about something I'm really passionate about, which is reading. The pure joy of reading." Kall-Homonoff's tone becomes heartfelt as she speaks about her passion. This is not the first time Kall-Homonoff has managed literary events. Until recently, she hosted the radio talk show "Reading

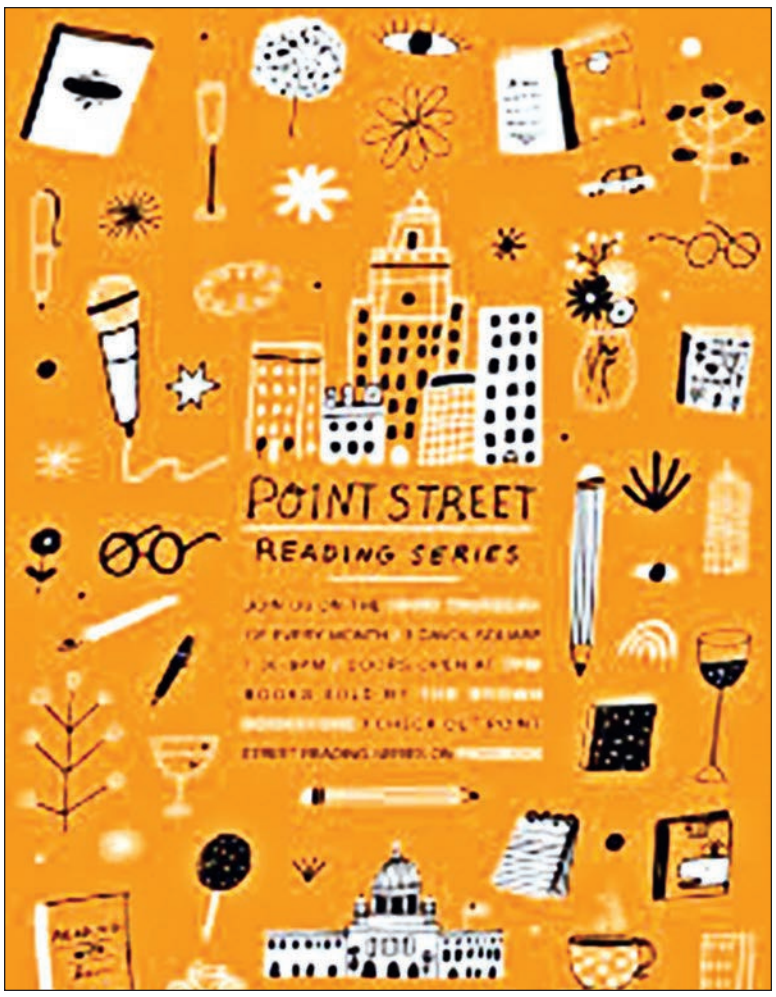


Robin Kall-Homonoff

with Robin," and she still holds "Evening with Authors," an annual breast cancer fundraiser in October, to name a few examples. The rest of her family members are also bookworms; her two children started their own book club. Twenty-eight-year-old David and 25-year-old Emily are currently – by choice – the only members of "Siblings Book Club."

Kall-Homonoff and Emily, who Kall-Homonoff identified as the brains behind this event, got the idea for the reading series after attending similar events together in other states – sometimes going to as many as three in one night. Kall-Homonoff's excitement for the reading series is apparent as she explains, "I just didn't want to miss anything!"

Inspired by these ventures, Kall-Homonoff is excited to bring the same kind of enthusiasm to Rhode Island readers.



"This is something different because Rhode Island doesn't have a reading series. It's one of a kind," she explains.

Authors who will read at the March 15 event include Caroline Leavitt, Rachel Cantor, Howard Axelrod, Tamara Valentine and Holly LeCraw. While Kall-Homonoff says there is no real cohesive theme in choosing authors, she has found in her other events that you can always find a way to string together stories or authors. She says there is actually some intent in having a variety of authors present; she hopes to make the series appealing to people of all reading preferences.

"I want everybody to come," she explains. "I want [the crowd] to be mixed up." This event, she says, is for the crowd that simply likes to hang out and have a good time, and for the crowd that is looking for something new to do.

Snacks will be available. Barbara Barry of Providence's new catering company Feast will prepare baked goods for the event, and the bar will be open; otherwise guests are welcome to bring their own food. Brown Bookstore will also have a table at the event and will have books for sale, including the authors' works. There will be a raffle as well as giveaways and prizes for the people who come first, including Panera gift certificates.

Kall-Homonoff is not only excited to share her joy of reading with others, but also to simply bring the community together.

"This is as a community-building thing, and I'm a connector," she says. "I love to bring people together."

Dueling Pianos is located at 3 Davol Square in Providence. For more information visit readingwithrobin.com or Point Street Reading Series on Facebook. No reservation necessary and free parking is available. Groups of four or more may request a table at robin@readingwithrobin.com.

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

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Group offers alternative therapy to those with suicidal feelings

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

Many of us go through periods when we're feeling down. It can be hard to know who to talk to about negative feelings, especially when you feel you can't or shouldn't talk about your struggles. Many institutionalized therapeutic groups don't permit the discussion of topics such as self-harm or suicide, and some require a diagnosis before participation is even allowed. This is a rule with which many people who struggle with depression, suicidal feelings, or other such problems take issue, but a new group in Attleboro aims to address this controversial staple of conventional therapy groups.

North Attleboro's Arielle Cohen has established a new kind of group for individuals in the community who harbor suicidal feelings. The group, called Alternatives to Suicide, or Alt-2-Su, is an alternative model to traditional therapy groups for those who have dealt with suicide.

"Unfortunately, stigma keeps us feeling isolated and silenced," says Cohen about the expression of suicidal feelings or tendencies. "Alt-2-Su allows folks to explore their stories and learn from one another."

Twenty-four-year old Cohen, who is currently pursuing a master's degree in social work from Boston College, first discovered Alt-2-Su at The Western Mass Recovery Learning Community (RLC) when she was living in Springfield, Mass.. The community's mission statement was what first caught Cohen's eye, and she became interested in learning more about it. Her workplace at the time was also partnered with RLC and provided workshops and training that she believed could be useful in her own work.

Cohen, who had struggled with her own experiences with depression and suicidal feelings when she was a teen, was not struggling at the time but says she found comfort in the groups provided by RLC.

"The Western Mass Recovery Learning Community gave me a safe place to share my experiences and learn from the wisdom of others. I loved attending these groups because I didn't have to be broken to attend; I could go happy, sad, depressed or otherwise," she explains.

"I've learned to be proactive and build supports in my life to help me stay well," says Cohen. "I believe the Alternatives to Suicide model is something I would have benefited from when I was younger but also benefits me now."

This people-driven community, according to RLC's website, "creates conditions that support healing and growth for individuals and the community as a whole through learning opportunities, advocacy, peer-to-peer support and the development of regional and national networks."

According to Cohen, the Alt-2-Su groups in western Massachusetts are much more established and have seen great success in providing comfort to those who have dealt with suicide. Massachusetts currently has the most programs, but Cohen says that at her training sessions for becoming an Alt-2-Su coordinator there were individuals from many different states. Through the group she has established in Attleboro, Cohen hopes to use her positive experiences in western Massachusetts to bring solace to people who have had experiences with suicide on this side of the state.

One of Alt-2-Su's main differences from institutionalized spaces where, as Cohen explained to me, "you are required to have a problem or diagnosis of some sort" is that participants are encouraged to feel safe, unjudged, and to come whether or not they have a diagnosis or negative feeling. Accordingly, locations are selected with comfort in mind; in the case of the group Cohen started, this is in a lounge area on the top floor of a community building. The lounge has a homey feel, with slanted wooden ceilings and comfortable chairs and couches, and participants are invited to relax in an informal and supportive setting as they share their experiences with suicide.

"I believe we all experience suicidal feelings throughout our life," says Cohen. "I know I'll never act on my suicidal feelings, but I have them. Although I am not in a bad place, I still have suicidal feelings. Having a place to talk with people who don't judge me and see suicide in a similar light really helps me work through my feelings."

New participants are welcome. Currently, meetings take place on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 115 Commonwealth Ave. in Attleboro Falls.

For more information, visit Facebook.com/Alt2SuAttleboro

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

Prizant, Shore to speak on autism

BY LARRY KATZ
lkatz@jewishallianceri.org



Barry Prizant



Stephen Shore

Two internationally recognized experts on autism will speak on Feb. 28 at 10 a.m. at the Dwares JCC as part of Jewish Disabilities Awareness and Inclusion Month.

"Autism Today: A Conversation with Barry Prizant and Stephen Shore" will draw from the latest research and professional insights. Prizant will interview Shore about his personal perceptions of living with autism; the dramatic changes that are under way in understanding autism and related conditions; and methods to support and improve a better quality of life. In addition, Shore will discuss Prizant's groundbreaking book "Uniquely Human: A Different Way of Seeing Autism," as well as how to understand and honor those with learning differences.

Dr. Barry Prizant is a Rhode Island resident who is recognized as one of the leading scholars in autism spectrum disorders, with more than 40 years experience as a researcher and international consultant for individuals with autism spectrum disorder. He is an adjunct professor at Brown University. He has recently authored "Uniquely Human: A Different Way of Seeing Autism" (Simon & Schuster, 2015), (reviewed in the Feb. 5 Jewish Voice).

Diagnosed with "atypical development and strong autistic tendencies" and "too sick" for outpatient treatment, Dr. Stephen Shore was recommended for institutionalization. Nonverbal until 4, and with much support from his parents, teachers, wife and others, he is now a professor at Adelphi University where his research focuses on matching best practice to the needs of people with autism. He is also a consultant and the author of "Beyond the Wall: Personal Experiences with Autism and Asperger Syndrome." He is co-author of "College for Students with Disabilities."

This event is part of Jewish Disabilities Awareness and Inclusion Month. On Feb. 21, Jennifer Rosner will speak about her new children's book, "A Mitten String." (Rosner was interviewed in the Feb. 5 Jewish Voice). Also, there will be two short films and a documentary about people with disabilities. J-Fitness Staff will offer Limited Mobility and Chair Exercise Workshops throughout the day.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact him at lkatz@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 179.

LARRY KATZ is director of Jewish Learning at the Jewish Alliance.

JEA holds 64th annual conference in New Jersey

The Jewish Educators Assembly (JEA), the professional organization of educators in the Conservative movement, just completed its 64th annual conference at the Westin Mt. Laurel in New Jersey. Lawrence Katz, director of Jewish Life and Learning at the Jewish Alliance of Rhode Island, was among those in attendance. He is a past president of the organization. The four-day gathering brought together congregational school principals, heads of Solomon Schechter Day Schools, early childhood directors, bureau and agency personnel, and family and informal educators from all across North America and Israel.

The theme of this year's conference was "Back to the Future – Integrating Basic Skills with the New Models of Jewish Education." Dr. Bill Robinson, dean of the Davidson School of Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and Dr. Saul Wachs, professor of Liturgy and Education at Gratz College, were among the featured speakers. Field practitioners Nancy Parkes, Danny Kochavi and Susan Werk all shared how they had introduced new structures yet incorporated basic skills into their own schools and synagogues. Additional sessions were led by Rich Walter (formerly of Pawtucket), Eli Sperling, and Steve Kerbel of the Center for Israel Education in Atlanta and by a variety of speakers sharing the newest and latest programs and approaches in Jewish education.

Conference participants had a chance to get out into Philadelphia and visit the National Museum of American Jewish History, the Constitution Center and the Liberty Museum. A series of "Table-top Discussions" allowed participants to share ideas and information on topics such as teacher supervision, report cards, and evaluations and standards for Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Another round of workshops showcased new ideas and materials from organizations, including Chai Mitzvah, the Kallah Project, Shinui, Musical IQ, Visrael, Shalom Learning, Jerusalem U and Behrman House's Online Learning Center. Participants also had the opportunity to view new texts, materials, and resources as they browsed our vendors and exhibitors.

The Early Childhood Track allowed EC Directors to delve more deeply into issues of building community through the early childhood center with a Yom Iyun (study day) for all area EC Directors which was an integral part of the program.

Torah Lishma study was led by Dr. Saul Wachs of Gratz College. Participants shared ideas and information over meals and get-togethers.

The conference provides an opportunity for professional growth, exploration of new trends and ideas, and acquisition of concrete programs and materials to bring home to each school and synagogue.

Clothes could make the man, or woman, in some cases

Parashat Tetzaveh



RABBI ETHAN ADLER

In this week's *Parashat Tetzaveh*, we read about the special garments worn by the *Kohanim* (Priests) when serving in the Tabernacle. It is clear that these vestments were designed to make their wearers feel special, unique and holy. Consider the underlined phrases below:

1: Moses is instructed to consecrate Aaron and his sons by dressing them in special priestly garments.

2: The Torah describes the making of the High Priest's *ephod* – a reversed apron which covered the back – and its precious-stone-studded shoulder straps.

3: The High Priest's *Choshen Mishpat* – Breastplate of Judgment – contained four rows of precious stones.

4: The *me'il* was a blue robe that was adorned with golden bells and cloth pomegranates.

5: The *tzitz* was a golden band worn on the forehead, which was engraved with the words "Holy to God."

6: As Aaron and his sons were brought to the door of the sanctuary, they were immersed in a *mikvah* (ritual pool), then dressed in the priestly garments.

"Clothes make the man (and woman)," the old saying goes. Many pieces of clothing carry a symbolic meaning. For example, the robe of a judge signifies justice, an expensive suit signifies power and a white lab coat signifies a scientific focus. Well, clothes certainly do seem to impress us human beings. Nothing tells us more about a person, or makes a greater first impression, than how one is dressed. It is remarkable that our entire character can be summed up by someone who does not know us – simply by how we are dressed (or are over or underdressed). Polonious in Shakespeare's "Hamlet" (Act 1, Scene 3) proclaims, "For the apparel oft proclaims the man."

It may be challenging to understand the commandments regarding the garments of the *Kohanim*. Judaism typically focuses on our inner qualities, and frowns on such outward materialism as clothing. So how then are we to discern the underlying meanings of these instructions?

It seems that the Torah is reminding us that clothing helps to identify the role in which we serve. Aaron is well-respected and loved among the Israelites and thus "should" be outfitted as would be appropriate for a *Kohen Gadol* – a High Priest. The holy garments added dignity and honor to his special services. In a way, this can be considered as a "*hiddur mitzvah*" – enhancing the fulfillment of a mitzvah. This is why we say *kiddush* over fine wine in a beautiful cup rather than over juice in a paper cup. Both fulfill the requirement of the mitzvah, but by adding beauty, we add to the holiness of the act. Add to this concept wearing a nicely embroidered *kippah*, donning shiny black *tefillin*, wrapping ourselves with a *tallit*, etc.



Ramban (Rabbi Moses Ben Nachman) notes that the commandment to dress the High Priest in garments for *kavod* (glory) and *tiferet* (splendor) is not only to enhance the status of the priest himself, but also to enhance the glory of God. He writes that in kabbalistic teachings, *kavod* and *tiferet* are understood as emanating characteristics of God.

And so, through these specialized garments, a special relationship with God is established, thus reflecting God's presence among the people. Ramban adds that the spark of God that resides in all of us is brought out in the priest and reflected on the outside with his clothing.

A golden crown and royal garments help command respect for a king or queen, and the position they hold among their subjects. Similarly, *bigdei kodesh* (holy garments) enhance both the ones who wear them, and the God whom they serve. Wearing the holy vestments, the *Kohanim* were constantly reminded of their special role and the holiness of their calling.

We must remember, however, that the *bigdei kodesh* are merely symbols, emblematic representations – traditional insignia if you will. *Bigdei kodesh* are only holy when they cover an *ish kodesh* – a holy person. To be an *ish kodesh* one does not need to be a *Kohen*. We all possess an ability to become holy; perhaps we just need to learn how to dress and act the part!

ETHAN ADLER is rabbi of Congregation Beth David in Narragansett.

Women's Alliance Endowment Fund welcomes grant applications

The Women's Alliance Endowment Fund (WAEF) membership seeks proposals for the upcoming fiscal year – July 2016-June 2017 – for innovative programs and services that benefit Jewish women and girls and have the potential for long-term impact. Educational, civic, cultural, religious and intergroup programs will be considered, as will services in the health and social services fields.

This year, the Women's Alliance Endowment Fund will make total grants of just over $7,200 to be distributed by June 30.

Over the last decade, the Women's Alliance Endowment Fund awarded 80 local and overseas grants, totaling more than $77,000, to a wide array of programs and service providers. All Rhode Island, Southeastern Massachusetts and overseas Jewish organizations, agencies and synagogues whose mission falls within the purview of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island may submit grant requests.

"Over the last several years, the committee has been proactive about connecting with the grant applicants directly to ensure the programs and services fit our core mission. Our focus is effectively supporting women and children. In the last program year, we funded a smaller pool of local and overseas programs to have a greater impact and avoid duplication," said Barbara Feldstein, co-chair of the WAEF.

Past programs that have received funding include Camp JORI's counselor training on female social development; educational enrichment and recreational therapeutic services for at-risk girls at Beit Ruth Hostel in Afula, Israel; ELI: Israel Association for Child Protection Safe House Economic Empowerment for Mothers; and Providence Community Kollel for the Momentum trip to Israel for Jewish mothers.

The 111 members of the WAEF are entitled to participate in the annual allocations process. WAEF membership requires a minimum fee of $1,000, payable over three years.

"We hope more women will be able to join the Women's Alliance Endowment Fund this year, or decide to renew their memberships so we can have a larger influence in supporting programs and services that in turn encourage the mission. Every year the fund grows, enabling us to allocate more to programs seeking our support," said Feldstein.

The WAEF request for proposals will be sent to local synagogues and Jewish agencies, as well as Jewish organizations that have received funding from the Women's Alliance in the past.

Grant requests must be received by Monday, March 14. Funding recipients are identified at the WAEF annual meeting on May 23, and will be notified in June 2016.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the WAEF grants available this year, contact Jennifer Zwirn at 401-421-4111 or jzwirn@jewishallianceri.org.

FROM PAGE 1

DAMASCUS GATE

empty, and returned through the Muslim Shuk (the market). Again – absolutely empty.

The next few days brought on a lot of thoughts and reflections for me. Together with my father, I went to visit my old army base, and the place where I lived for almost two years – the Gaza strip.

Looking at Gaza, near Kibbutz Sa'ad, my father told me (probably for the 10th time) that just 20 years ago, he had many friends over there, and he used to work there every so often. He used to buy things in the Gaza Shuk, and eat hummus with other friends, Jews and Muslims. It's sad that my father and I have such different perspectives and memories from the same place. Mine is war-related. His is life, work and food-related.

Again, I thought about Jerusalem and the attack.

I hope that Jerusalem will stay a place for my kids to visit, eat hummus with Jews and non-Jews, work, pray and to live.

GILOR MESHULAM is the Israeli *Shaliach* (emissary) for the Jewish Alliance.

Candle Lighting Times

Greater Rhode Island

Feb. 19	**5:03**
Feb. 26	**5:12**
March 4	**5:20**
March 11	**5:28**

Daylight saving time resumes March 13



Summer dreams



EDITOR

FRAN OSTENDORF

A recent conversation between adult members of my family made me realize the impact of camp on multiple generations.

The conversation went something like this:

Question: Why didn't I go to Jewish camp?

Answer: Nobody ever considered it. You went to Girl Scout camp.

Question: Yes, but we went to Religious School. Didn't anybody ever mention Jewish camp?

Answer: I don't think so.

You might wonder why you should care about the camp content in this issue if you aren't going to camp or have children of camp age. Why would The Voice fill a large chunk of the paper with stuff about camp when much of the readership is well beyond needing to think about camp?

Well, camp seems to stick with us long after we head home at the end of summer. It comes up again and again. You remember your camp years whether you enjoyed camp or not. If you didn't go to camp, surely you knew someone who did. Or, perhaps you sent your children to camp, or maybe your grandchildren go to camp. Or maybe they will go soon.

We focus on Jewish camp here because we are a Jewish community newspaper. We think that's important. But the camping experience doesn't stop there. There are hundreds of camps designed around many, many interests. As someone who went to sleep-away camp (I never remember calling it overnight camp) for eight weeks each summer, I marvel at the camp choices now available. When I went away, the only other overnight option was scout camp. That was two weeks; maybe one month if you were lucky. Now you can choose from cabins or college campuses, single sex or co-ed. And, the specialty camps make my head spin: computer, cooking, dance, gymnastics, science, math, theater, arts and so on. Sure, the old-fashioned, well-rounded all-outdoors camps still exist. But, well, I can't imagine having to make a choice whether as a parent or as a child.

So our purpose in printing all this camp information is to inform and maybe help people when they make choices. And it's also to bring our non-camp-oriented readers up-to-date with the latest information. Oh, and it's a great excuse to share some adorable camp photos with you all.

> **"Camp seems to stick with us long after we head home at the end of summer. It comes up again and again."**

If you are considering camp this summer for your kids or grandchildren, please don't forget our advertisers. When we approach camps to advertise in The Voice, we hope everyone will take a look and maybe approach that camp to learn a little more. Need I remind our readers to mention The Voice to the camp advertiser when inquiring? That's the only way an advertiser knows their ad is getting a response.

So sit back and enjoy our camp issue. Explore the camp options. If you never went, imagine what it might have been like if you did. Or think about those in your family who might enjoy the experience. We're sure it's a topic that will touch all our readers if they take a moment to remember or imagine.

How to be a *flâneur*



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

Back in the winter of 2012, the leader of a poetry workshop I was attending introduced us to the French term, *flâneur*, by having us read selections from Edmund White's, "The Flâneur" (Bloomsbury, 2001). As suggested by the subtitle, "A Stroll through the Paradoxes of Paris," the book is an eccentric travel guide through the city of Paris. On a more general level, White explores multiple dimensions of what it means to be a *flâneur*.

According to White, the *flâneur* is "that aimless stroller who loses himself in the crowd, who has no destination and goes wherever caprice or curiosity directs his or her steps," the man or woman who takes delight in "those little forgotten places ... the traces left by people living in the margin." The French poet Charles Baudelaire (1821-1867), whom White considers to be "the consummate Parisian *flâneur*" of the 19th century, praises the *flâneur* as "the passionate observer," "[t]he amateur of life (who) enters into the crowd as into an immense reservoir of electricity."

While both White and Baudelaire hold *flâneurs* in high esteem, honoring such individuals for their artistic souls, others see them in a far more negative light. Detractors define *flâneurs* as dawdlers, idlers, loafers – lazy and indecisive men and women who are forever ruing the road not taken.

Despite his admiration for the *flâneur*, White does admit that he is "by definition endowed with enormous leisure, someone who can take off a morning or an afternoon for undirected ambling, since a specific goal or a close rationing of time is antithetical to the true spirit of the *flâneur*."

White is quick to point out that we "Americans are particularly ill-suited to be *flâneurs*." We are allergic to wasting time. We need to pack as many sights – not insights – as possible into our overstuffed tourist itineraries. We consider it a supreme accomplishment not to leave a single moment unplanned, not to leave anything open to chance.

From White's perspective, Walter Benjamin (1892-1940), a German Jewish philosopher and cultural critic, is "[t]he last of the great literary *flâneurs*." In a 1929 essay, Benjamin wrote that the *flâneur* "would be happy to trade all his knowledge of artists' quarters, birthplaces and princely palaces for the scent of a single weathered threshold or the touch of a single tile – that which any old dog carries away."

White understands Benjamin to be saying, "the *flâneur* is in search of experience, not knowledge. Most experience ends up interpreted as – and replaced by – knowledge, but for the *flâneur* the experience remains somehow pure, useless, raw."

I particularly like White's choice of the word "useless." The paradox in his formulation is that in this context "useless" – supported on either side by "pure" and "raw" – means its very opposite, "useful" – at least in terms of artistic inspiration and creativity. It is the very purposelessness of the *flâneur's* experience that opens him up to the infinity of never sought, never thought, and therefore never fought possibilities that come with being open to chance encounters. In short, it is in NOT seeking that the *flâneur* finds.

During my undergraduate years at Columbia College, I often found myself in the role of *flâneur*, though it has taken me 50 years to learn the French word. While I learned much from the courses I took, I learned as much from my wanderings without worry or direction through the obscure ways and byways of Manhattan.

As a sophomore, I signed up for a two-semester writing course taught by Kenneth Koch, a well-known poet of the "New York School." For one of his assignments, I wrote a poem titled "Just Riding," which told of my experience as a bearded *flâneur* on a three-speed bicycle crossing the Goethals Bridge over the Arthur Kill, a tidal strait separating Elizabeth, N.J., from Staten Island, N.Y. I was just riding – past smiling faces and wheelless hubcaps, reflecting the three o'clock sun and bloated cargo ships and Sunday-empty factories. At the time I was 19 years old, free to observe joyfully and without judgment, unburdened by the responsibilities of family and rabbinical career that were yet to come.

Now, along with the comforts of a long marriage, the seemingly safe launching of our daughter and son, the supreme blessing of five grandchildren, the freedom brought by retirement, I find myself searching for my inner *flâneur*; I seek that ageless youthfulness not yet buried within my aging body. As a *flâneur* resurrected, I seek once again to go through life astonished, every day to see the world as if for the first time, to stop the sound of my feet long enough to experience the miracle of that bush burning, burning but not consumed.

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

France presents proposal for peace summit to Israel, Palestinians

JERUSALEM (JTA) – France has presented Israel and the Palestinians with a proposal for an international peace conference.

The French ambassador to Israel, Patrick Maisonnave, in a meeting Feb. 16 with the head of the Israeli Foreign Ministry's diplomatic office, Alon Ushpiz, disclosed details of the initiative to bring the two sides together for a conference that would include officials from the United States, Europe and the Arab countries.

The summit would be held in the summer, according to the proposal, and would launch new negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

U.S.-brokered negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, the last diplomatic process to try to solve the conflict, broke down in April 2014.

Ushpiz told the French ambassador at the meeting that Israel supports direct negotiations and opposes any attempt to predetermine the outcome of talks, Haaretz reported, citing the Foreign Ministry. Ushpiz reportedly also discussed the recent wave of Palestinian terror, as well as incitement in Palestinian media, schools and other areas.

French diplomats said the Palestinian response to the French initiative was very positive, according to Haaretz.

On Feb. 15 while visiting Japan, Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Riyad al-Malki said the Palestinians would never again hold direct talks with Israel.

The French initiative to convene an international peace summit was first announced in a Jan. 29 speech by French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius at the Foreign Ministry in Paris.

Fabius has since resigned from his position. His successor, Jean-Marc Ayrault, is continuing with the initiative.

OUR MISSION

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

COLUMNS | LETTERS POLICY

The Jewish Voice publishes thoughtful and informative contributors' columns (op-eds of 500 – 800 words) and letters to the editor (250 words, maximum) on issues of interest to our Jewish community. At our discretion, we may edit pieces for publication or refuse publication. Letters and columns, whether from our regular contributors or from guest columnists, represent the views of the authors; they do not represent the views of The Jewish Voice or the Alliance.

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).

FROM PAGE 1

REMEMBRANCE

wives were expected to stay home and cook and clean for husbands who were competing for top slots in premier law schools and bountiful salaries in fancy law firms. Scalia and I had to fend for ourselves, and I spent many weekends commuting to New York for dates.

At a time when Richard Nixon was reviled, John Kennedy was idolized and Justice Earl Warren seemed to be taking the Supreme Court out of the Dark Ages, Scalia was a committed conservative. Although we acknowledged Scalia's brilliance, none of the Review's editors would have predicted, given the temper of the times, that he would make it to the Supreme Court.

He served as notes editor of the Review and prevailed in an intellectual battle we had (I was effectively managing editor, then called treasurer) over whether a student-authored note should support the constitutional rights of Sabbath-observant business owners who were claiming, in two of the Sunday Law challenges, that they were constitutionally entitled to remain open on Sundays because their religious observance forced them to be closed on Saturdays. Only Justices Brennan and Stewart ultimately agreed with the Sabbath-observers' contention. The note Scalia edited before the case was argued took what was later the Supreme Court majority's position over my vociferous objection.

Scalia was unconventional, even in those days. Law Review editors vied for clerkships on the Supreme Court or with respected federal judges. Scalia chose not to join that competition. Instead he opted for a Harvard fellowship that enabled him and Maureen – the beautiful Catholic girl he met on the recommendation of another Review editor and later married – to travel to Europe and other exotic locations during the year after we were granted LLBs (jacked up by Harvard, many years later, to JDs). He then joined the Cleveland law firm known as Jones, Day, Cockley and Reavis after an interview during which he bowled over the partners with his familiarity with the Sunday Law cases that were being argued before the Supreme Court.

We became friends again when Scalia was named by Reagan to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. In my first appearance before him, Judge Scalia gave my legal arguments a thorough drubbing and wrote the court's opinion rejecting every legal claim I made – and then some. He did, however, vote to rehear another appellate-court decision that had rejected my constitutional claim for an Orthodox Jewish Air Force psychologist who wore a *yarmulke* with his military uniform. When he was promoted to the Supreme Court shortly thereafter (which I viewed as appropriate Divine reward because he and Ginsburg both made it to the highest court after they voted with us in the *yarmulke* case), we revived our law school friendship.

Scalia and his wife were guests in our *sukkah*, and he was kind enough to meet with law school classes I brought to Washington to hear Supreme Court arguments. (Zealously liberal students who claimed not to be able to tolerate Scalia's judicial philosophy melted into personal fans after they met and spoke with the man. Rather than meeting the cantankerous grouch they were expecting, they saw and heard from a funny, modest, gregarious and intellectually honest judge.) He also accepted my recommendations to attend and address Orthodox Jewish gatherings such as colloquia run by Chabad-Lubavitch, sessions and dinners with Agudath Israel of America, and a mass meeting at Yeshiva University where he and I discussed current issues of constitutional law and public policy. Each event was enormously successful.

We seemed to share identical views on church-state issues. Scalia did not read the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment as broadly as secular Jewish groups do. In cases I argued before the court, he voted with a court majority (against the ACLU and the American Jewish Congress) to sustain the Chabad menorah in front of Pittsburgh's City Hall and dissented when six members of the court held that public financing of a school reserved for handicapped children in the Satmar Village of Kiryas Joel, New York, was unconstitutional aid to religion. His views on government financing of religious institutions were applauded by Orthodox Jewish groups.

Disappointment came in 1990, however, when he surprisingly wrote a majority opinion that cut the heart out of the special status that religious observance had been granted by earlier Supreme Court decisions enforcing the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment. Supreme Court rulings had held that religious observance could not constitutionally be abridged unless government proved a "compelling interest." Scalia's opinion gave religion no greater respect than any secular interest. No party or friend-of-the-court brief had asked the Supreme Court to issue such a sweeping and revolutionary ruling. A rainbow coalition of groups interested in religious freedom (including the American Jewish Congress) then asked the court to reconsider. It refused to do so.

I asked Scalia how he could possibly reconcile that 1990 decision with the 1984 vote cast, when he was a federal appellate judge, in favor of the Air Force psychologist whose religious observance compelled him to wear a *yarmulke*. Scalia was, as usual, entirely forthright.

"I was on a lower court then and had to follow Supreme Court precedent," he said. "When I was on the Supreme Court, I was the one who decided what the precedent would be."

Apart from that one significant departure, Scalia had a consistent record of supporting minority religious observance. In June 2015, when he announced the decision he wrote in favor of a Muslim applicant for a job at Abercrombie & Fitch who was unlawfully denied employment because she wore a headscarf, he called it an "easy case."

There is universal agreement that Nino Scalia was brilliant, amazingly articulate and a real *mensch*. There is strong disagreement, however, over the side he chose in ideological battles. Some praised Nino's wisdom; others were ready to stone him. But all must concur that he was a great man, that the United States he loved is greatly diminished by his loss, and that he greatly revered Jews and Jewish tradition.

NATHAN LEWIN is a Washington D.C. attorney who specializes in religious freedom cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Married to another man: an irresistible anti-Zionist story

BY SHAI AFSAI

In the introduction to his popular and influential history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, "The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World" (W. W. Norton & Co, 2000), Oxford University Professor Avi Shlaim recounts the following story: "The publication of [Theodore Herzl's] 'The Jewish State' evoked various reactions in the Jewish community, some strongly favorable, some hostile and some skeptical. After the Basel Congress [i.e., the First Zionist Congress, in 1897] the rabbis of Vienna sent two representatives to Palestine. This fact-finding mission resulted in a cable from Palestine in which the two rabbis wrote, 'The bride is beautiful, but she is married to another man.'"

Though that story about the Land of Israel/Palestine being lovely but already taken lacks a primary source, and though there has been no basis for recounting it as a historical event that occurred during the early years of the Zionist movement, versions of it appear in a host of books and articles. University of Exeter Professor Ghada Karmi, for instance, based the title and thesis of her "Married to Another Man: Israel's Dilemma in Palestine" (Pluto Press, 2007), in which she argued for the dissolution of the Jewish state, on the story. More recently, former Swedish diplomat Ingmar Karlsson followed suit with his 2012 anti-Zionist work "*Bruden är vacker* men *har redan en man: Sionisme – en ideologi vid vägs ände?*" ("The bride is beautiful but there is already a husband: Zionism – an ideology at the end of the road?")

Often, as with Shlaim, Karmi and Karlsson, no source for the story is provided by its tellers. At other times, a specious one is presented. The opening paragraph of Mustapha Marrouchi's 2011 article "Cry No More for Me, Palestine – Mahmoud Darwish" ("College Literature," 38:4), for example, cites Henry M. Christman's "The State Papers of Levi Eshkol" as the story's source. There is actually no "married to another man" story in Christman's book, however.

In some versions of the story, it is the First Zionist Congress (rather than the rabbis of Vienna) that dispatches the two representatives. In others, it is Herzl himself who sends the rabbis and receives their reply. One of the story's more frequent tellers, Egyptian journalist and public intellectual Mohamed Heikal, has used it in the context of describing the state of Israel as "something unreal" with which peace is not possible, and its European Jewish inhabitants as not "Semitic" and lacking an enduring connection to the Middle East.

Heikal has also made use of the story to depict Zionist Jews as unremittingly opposed to conciliation with the Palestinians, suggesting that just as Herzl was unwilling to give up his plans to create a Jewish state in Palestine, even though "the two rabbis" informed him that the land already belonged to others, it is similarly unlikely that today's Zionists will "compromise" – i.e., agree to no longer have a Jewish state in the Middle East – now that their sought after state already exists.

In another, less widespread variant, the "married to another man" story is not set in Western Europe, during the lifetime of Herzl, or even in the 19th century. In his "Original Sins: Reflections on the History of Zionism and Israel" (Palgrave Macmillan, 1992), University of Haifa Professor Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi relates the following: "There is a famous story, told during a meeting between Prime Minister Golda Meir and a group of Israeli writers in 1970. A Jew from Poland visited Palestine in the 1920s. On his return to Europe, he summarized his impressions by saying: 'The bride is beautiful, but she has got a bridegroom already.' Golda Meir responded by saying: 'And I thank God every night that the bridegroom was so weak, and the bride could be taken away from him.'"As is the case with the two rabbinic representatives from Vienna in other versions, the Jewish visitor to Palestine in Beit-Hallahmi's "famous story" is unnamed. The visitor's city of origin is likewise not identified, nor is a specific year given for when his visit to Palestine or return to Poland were to have occurred.

In 2012 I published "'The bride is beautiful, but she is married to another man': Historical Fabrication and an Anti-Zionist Myth" ("Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies," 30:3, pages 35-61) on aspects of the "married to another man" story. Others, including the anonymous blogger Elder of Ziyon, Hadar Sela (managing editor of BBC Watch) and Lisa Abramowicz (secretary-general of the Swedish Israel Information Center) have subsequently also addressed misuses of the story.

No primary source for the story has surfaced since publication of the "Shofar" article, yet it continues to be repeated uncritically. Though Ghada Karmi, for example, has admitted that she searched hard for the story's source, was unable to find one, and fears it may in the end be apocryphal, she has offered no public correction of her scholarship and still presents the story as historical fact on her website. Similarly, when Avi Shlaim published an "Updated and Expanded" edition of "The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World" in 2014, he once again included the "married to another man" story in his book.

The anti-Zionist potential inherent in the story makes it irresistible to certain writers and accounts for much of its enduring popularity, despite its apparent lack of historical authenticity. Regardless of its different details, the "married to another man" story's central point is often the same. Already in the early years of the Zionist movement, the argument goes, Jews recognized that it would be wrong for them to try to claim the Land of Israel/Palestine, as it was inhabited by Arabs and wedded to them. Despite this, the Zionists proceeded with their plans for Jewish statehood there. From the outset, therefore, Zionism was resolutely immoral, and at its core the establishment of the state of Israel was an act of willful injustice.

It is but a small step from such an argument to the conclusion that the Zionist state should now be entirely dismantled, ending decades of injustice. Heikal, Karmi, Karlsson and Marrouchi eagerly take that step. Shlaim, too, currently supports a one-state solution. All have been willing to put aside scholarly standards in attempting to advance their anti-Zionist arguments.

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There is a solution to every 'problem'
We can change in every moment



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'Love Your Neighbor' theme of annual Drash & Dessert

BY LARRY KATZ
lkatz@jewishallianceri.org

A meaningful evening of learning, study and practice is planned for the Third Annual Drash & Dessert program on Saturday night, March 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dwares JCC. Members of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island will present five different workshops on the theme "Love Your Neighbor."

As Rabbi Barry Dolinger, the chair of the event said, "The Torah's dictate to 'love your neighbor as yourself' has inspired Jews and non-Jews for millennia. In our times, it remains extremely relevant and, at times, profoundly challenging. Who is a 'neighbor,' and is anyone excluded from the class? Can we truly love others if we don't love ourselves first? What if 'your neighbor' poses a threat?"

In one session, Rabbi Sarah Mack, chair of the Board of Rabbis, will discuss her recent trip to Cuba and how American Jews are reaching out to the Jewish community there. Rabbi Marc Mandel will describe how Jews from around the world helped the first Jewish settlers in Newport, and how in turn, the Jewish settlers in Newport reached out to Jews all over the world.



Rabbis Elan Babchuck, Mark Elber and Dolinger will lead their group in a variety of spiritual practices, including song, meditation and Torah study, designed to cultivate and foster practices of love and compassion.

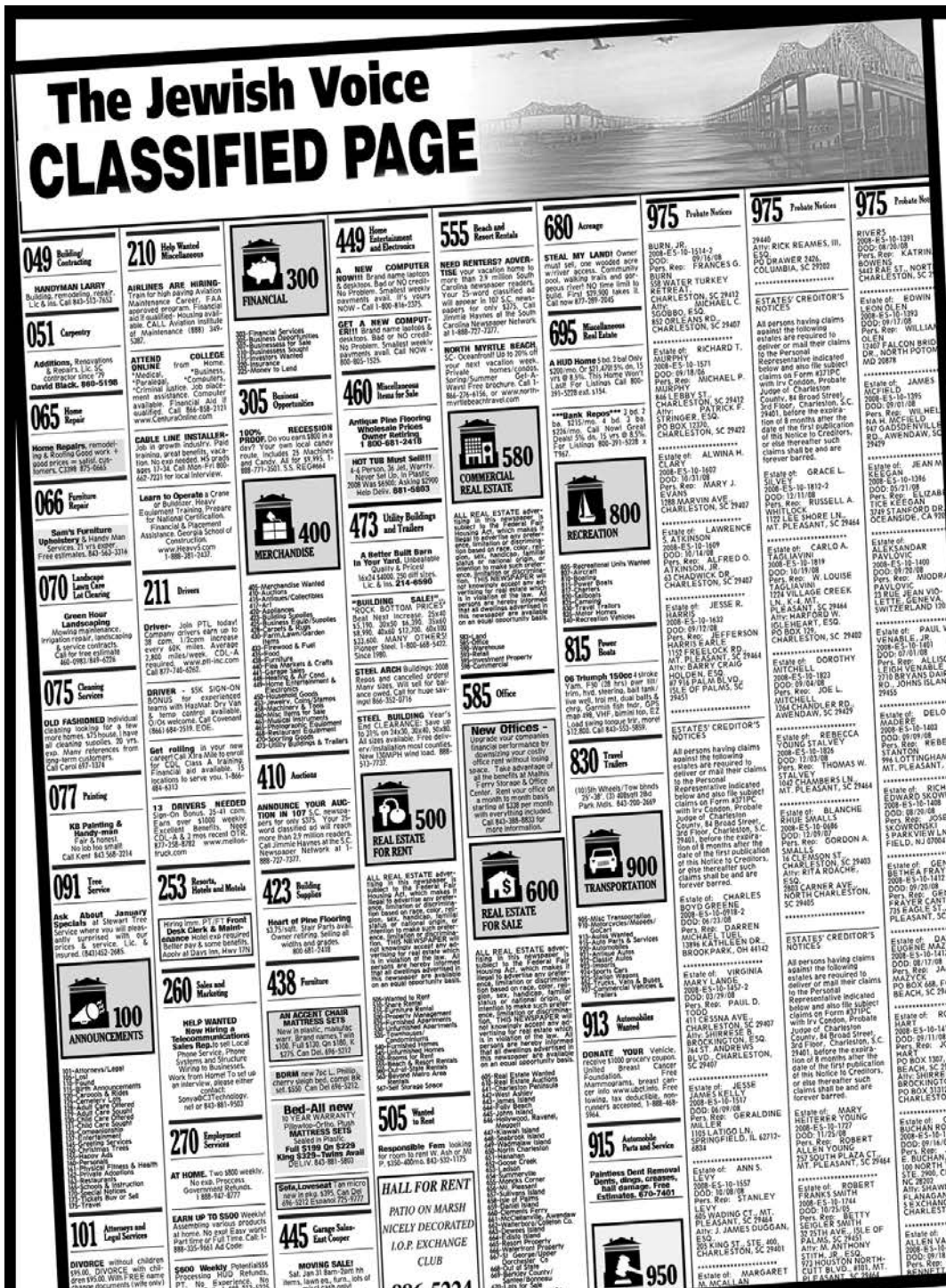
Rabbi James Rosenberg will conduct a workshop on the names of God, while Rabbi Alan Flam will lead a session , with members of the Speakers Bureau of the RI Coalition for the Homeless, to discuss how to end homelessness in Rhode Island.

Rabbi Wayne Franklin, Rabbi Richard Pearlman, and Pastor Dennis Kohl will read selections from Lutheran and Jewish documents dealing with the topic of speaking to each other with respect. They will then open the floor to questions, comments and input.

Havdalah will be led by Pastrami on RI, which is Rhode Island's first-ever Jewish, co-ed, post-collegiate a capella group.

As usual, there is no charge for the event, and a dessert buffet will be served. This year, a hot chocolate bar will be featured.

LARRY KATZ is director of Jewish life and learning at the Jewish Alliance. For more information, contact him at 401-421-4111, ext. 179, or lkatz@jewishallianceri.org.



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Tricia Stearly at 401-421-4111, ext. 160
or tstearly@jewishallianceri.org

Ongoing

Alliance Kosher Senior Café. Kosher lunch and program every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Noon lunch; 1 p.m. program. $3 lunch donation from individuals 60+ or under 60 with disabilities. Neal or Elaine, 401-421-4111, ext. 107. CAFÉ MOVE TO TEMPLE EMANU-EL ON MARCH 2 WITH A NEW PHONE NUMBER: 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.

Through March 3

21 Plein Air Artists. Gallery at Temple Habonim features 36 works from participants in a summer Lifelong Learning Collaborative class. Variety of styles and mediums. Hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment. 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. For information, call 401-245-6536. gallery@templehabonim.org.

Sunday | February 21

Special Day-at-the-J! 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dwares JCC. An assortment of programs for children and adults. This month's schedule: 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. bounce house and board games; 12-5:30 p.m. family/open swim (2 pool lanes) | lap swim (2 pool lanes); 11 a.m. 2:30 p.m. Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month film screenings of "I'm Ready" and "A Pure Prayer" (two short trigger films from Ma'aleh Film School) followed by "Praying With Lior" (a full-length documentary); 10:30 a.m., 2 and 2:30 p.m. Limited Mobility and Chair Exercise Workshops (20-minute introductory mini-workshops that teach the basics of chair yoga, chair resistance band exercises and other movements to help increase strength); 3-5 p.m. Storytime and Craft with Jennifer Rosner, author of "The Mitten String" (see separate calendar listing). For more information, contact Erin Moseley at emoseley@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 108.

"The Mitten String" with Jennifer Rosner. 3-5 p.m. Dwares JCC. In celebration of Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month, join children's book author Jennifer Rosner as she reads from her book "The Mitten String." This original folktale is about a girl named Ruthie who is visited by a deaf woman and her baby. Ruthie, a talented knitter of mittens, wonders how the mother will know if her child wakes up in the middle of the night and is inspired by the surprising answer. This modern folktale will resonate with those who love crafts, anyone who encounters someone with physical differences – and with everyone who has ever lost a mitten in the depths of winter. Children participate in a craft project after the story. For more information or to RSVP, contact Michelle Cicchitelli at 401-421-4111, ext. 178, or mcicchitelli@jewishallianceri.org.

West Bay Havurah Dairy Brunch Get-Together. 11 a.m. Enjoy conversation with old and new friends, as well as fabulous food, at this fun homemade dairy brunch get-together. Havurah members Jerry and Ruth Kasten graciously welcome you to their warm and inviting home to enjoy a relaxing Sunday morning brunch with them and others. Participants are requested to make a contribution to a West Bay Community Jewish Center (WBCJC) fund of their choice in lieu of bringing food. Seating limited to 16 guests. Call Jerry at 401-885-1296 to reserve your spot and get the address.

Monday | February 22

Schmeer and Schmooze. 10 a.m. Sponsored by Jewish Eldercare at Congregation B'nai Israel in Woonsocket. Come visit and enjoy brunch with Rabbi Ethan Adler. 224 Prospect St., Woonsocket. 401-762-3651.

Tuesday | February 23

Hadassah Rhode Island Installation of 2016 Officers. 6:30 p.m. Wendy's house in Warwick. Call 401-463-3636 or get in touch with Sue Mayes, sue_mayes@cox.net, or rhodeislandchapter@hadassah.org for further information.

Thursday | February 25

"Most Likely to Succeed." 7:30-9:30 p.m. Dwares JCC. Sponsored by the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island. Directed by acclaimed documentarian Greg Whiteley, this film is considered "the best film ever done on the topic of school – both its past and its future." A short discussion will follow the 90-minute film. Free and open to the public. For more information or to RSVP, contact Lauri Lee at 401-751-2470 or llee@jcdsri.org.

Friday | February 26

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

Sunday | February 28

Autism Today: A Conversation with Barry Prizant and Stephen Shore. 10-11:30 a.m. Dwares JCC. Join two leading authorities on autism as they share in a discussion centered around living with autism. Drawing from the newest research and professional insights, Prizant will talk with Shore about his personal perceptions of living with autism, the dramatic changes that are under way in our understanding of autism and related conditions and methods to support and improve a better quality of life for individuals of all ages in Jewish and secular communities. Shore will discuss Prizant's groundbreaking book "Uniquely Human: A Different Way of Seeing Autism" as well as how to understand and honoring those learning differences. Audience Q&A following the dialogue. A light breakfast will be provided. For more information, contact Larry Katz at lkatz@jewishallianceri.org, or 401-421-4111, ext. 179.

Friday | March 4

(401)j Community Shabbat Dinner. 6:30 p.m. Dwares JCC. Kick off our Weekend of Unplugging with your fellow (401) jers. Price (includes food and wine): $10 per person. For more information or to RSVP (by March 1), contact Erin Moseley at 401-421-4111, ext. 108, or emoseley@jewishallianceri.org.

Saturday | March 5

Drash & Dessert. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Dwares JCC. The Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island presents an evening of dialogue, learning and community. There is no cost, and dessert will be provided. For more information, contact Larry Katz at 401-421-4111, ext. 179, or lkatz@jewishallianceri.org.

Sunday | March 6

Novel Conversations: "The Bus on Jaffa Road" with Mike Kelly. 9:45-11:30 a.m. Dwares JCC. After their children are killed in a terrorist bombing, three American families attempt to find out who was responsible. After winning a judgment in a U.S. court, the families encountered an unforeseen enemy – their own government. Mike Kelly is an award-winning columnist for The (Bergen) Record of New Jersey and the author of three critically acclaimed nonfiction books: "Fresh Jersey," "Color Lines," "The Bus on Jaffa Road." No cost to attend. Light breakfast will be served. Sponsored by Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and Jewish Book Council. For more information or to RSVP, contact Gilor Meshulam at 401-421-4111, ext. 121, or gmeshulam@jewishallianceri.org.

Day-at-the-J! 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Dwares JCC. Come for a day of fun or to relax with friends. This month's schedule includes: 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon and 4 p.m. group exercise classes with J-Fitness Staff; 9:45-11:30 a.m. Novel Conversations with Mike Kelly (see separate calendar listing); 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Movie: "Ratatouille"; 12:30-1:30 p.m. It's Way Beyond "Move More and Eat Less;" 12:30-2:30 p.m. kid-friendly obstacle course; 12:30-2:30 p.m. healthy Ccooking project; 12-5:30 p.m. Sunday funday open swim; 2:30-3:30 p.m. art project. For more information, contact Dori Venditti at 401-421-4111, ext. 210, or dvenditti@jewishallianceri.org.

Wednesday | March 9

Exploring the Arts: Suminagashi Workshop. 6-8 p.m. Dwares JCC. Suminagashi or "floating ink," originating in Japan, is the process of marbling plain paper with water and ink to transform it into something vibrant and colorful. This workshop, led by local artist Liliana Fijman, has been brought back by popular demand. No experience necessary. Last year's workshop sold out, so register early. Ages: 18+. Price: $25 | Members: $18 (Price includes all supplies. Pre-registration required. Member pricing extends to Alliance Annual Campaign donors who give a household gift of $1,000 or more.) For more information, contact Erin Moseley at 401-421-4111, ext. 108, or emoseley@jewishallianceri.org.

Sunday | March 13

Purim Mitzvah Day. 1:30-4 p.m. The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. The whole family is invited to participate in a day of baking and celebrating. Help teach your child about the mitzvot of Purim and doing for others while we make hundreds of hamentaschen that will be delivered to seniors throughout the state. Wear your costume and participate in a parade through the building, and be entered to win a prize. Stories, crafts, music and snacks. Sponsored by the Jewish Alliance of Greater of Rhode Island, Jewish Seniors Agency, Hillel of the University of Rhode Island and The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence. For more information, contact Michelle Cicchitelli at mcicchitelli@jewishallianceri.org, or 401-421-4111, ext. 178.

Friday | March 18

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

Saturday | March 19

Kids' Night Out: High Flying Fun. 5-10 p.m. Dwares JCC. Kids come spend the evening with friends in a fun and safe environment. Parents, take this opportunity to have a night out "kid free!" Kids' Night Out runs once a month on Saturday evenings. Each month children will be entertained with a variety of themed activities ranging from sports, crafts, swimming and more. A pizza dinner and snacks will be served, and the evening will end with a movie. Ages: 5-12. Price: $35 | Members: $25 | Siblings: $15. For more information or to register, contact Shannon Kochanek at 401-421-4111, ext. 147, or skochanek@jewishallianceri.org.

Tuesday | March 29

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

Thursday | March 31

Women's Alliance of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island Rosh Hodesh Celebration. Noon-1:15 p.m. "Miriam: Big sister, prophetess, and more! An examination of this multifaceted biblical figure through Torah texts, midrashim, and art." Features Marcia Kaunfer, educator, Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island. Temple Emanu-El Vestry, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Cost: $10 (includes lunch). For more information or to RSVP, contact Danielle Germanowski at 401-421-4111 ext. 109 or dgermanowski@jewishallianceri.org or visit jewishallianceri.org/rosh-hodesh. RSVP by March 23.

Calendar Submissions

MARCH 4 issue, PETS, must be received by FEB. 24.

MARCH 18 issue, SPRING HOME & GARDEN, must be received by MARCH 9

SEND ALL CALENDAR ITEMS TO: editor@jewishallianceri.org with the subject line "CALENDAR." Calendar entries may be edited for content, length and relevance.

Israel grants and scholarships available

Grants are available through the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island for all high school, college and graduate students who are Rhode Island residents planning to study in Israel in a recognized study/travel program. The Rhode Island Jewish community supports an Israel experience as an integral part of a student's education and growing Jewish identity. Applications should be submitted to Jana Brenman at the Jewish Alliance by March 15 for summer, fall and yearlong programs.

For more information, contact Jana Brenman at 401-421-4111, ext. 181, or jbrenman@jewishallianceri.org.

Reserve now for theater and dessert

On Saturday, May 21, the West Bay Havurah will attend a production at the Ocean State Theatre. The group will go to Gregg's restaurant for dessert following the production.

Cole Porter's upbeat Tony award-winning musical "Anything Goes" plays the Ocean State Theatre in May, and promises to be great! This classic features a magical score including "It's De-Lovely," "I Get a Kick Out of You," "You're the Top," and "Anything Goes."

Ocean State Theatre is at 1245 Jefferson Blvd, Warwick.

Plan on a lively evening from 7:30-11:30 p.m. But you must reserve now. Deadline is Feb. 29. Send a check, payable to WBCJC for $39 per person, to Mark Sweberg, 28 Deborah Rd., Warwick, RI 02888 or call 401-248-5010 for more information.

These cake pops feature a twist

BY REBECCA PLINER

(The Nosher via JTA) – Cake pops are such a fun, bite-sized way to serve dessert – particularly for special occasions. And I love this unique twist on the decadent combination of chocolate and halva. For those who might be a little wary of a halva, fear not: You can add as little (or as much) halva as you like.

One of the best parts of this recipe is that you can make it with boxed cake mix! That's right – a trained pastry chef is encouraging you to cheat on this one. I have made this recipe with homemade mocha cake, but the truth is you cannot tell the difference between scratch-made or boxed, so you might as well save yourself some time.

By substituting a few ingredients for high-quality choices, these treats will taste like you were slaving all day. These cake pops are chocolaty, easy to make and sinfully delicious.

Chocolate Halva Cake Pops

Ingredients:

1 box of moist chocolate cake mix (I prefer Duncan Hines) plus eggs and oil per directions

Optional substitutions: for cake mix, instead of water I used coconut milk. For the oil, I substituted apple sauce.

1 cup halva (any flavor of your choice) plus more for décor

12 ounces good-quality semi-sweet or dark chocolate (for dipping)

Recommended equipment: popsicle sticks, small ice cream or cookie scoop

Directions:

Prepare boxed cake mix per directions or with optional substitutions. Add crumbled halva into the cake mixture. Bake per directions.

Meanwhile, place a piece of parchment paper on a sheet pan and make a space in the fridge or freezer to place once cake pops are rolled.

Once cooled, the cake should be moist enough to roll into perfect cake pop consistency. Use a small ice cream or cookie scoop to help you measure them out, and mix in extra halva pieces to your taste. Wear food-safe gloves if possible; this can get messy quickly. Roll into uniform and tight balls and make sure there are no cracks.

Quick tip: Squish the mixture together tightly, then roll between palms for the perfect cake pop.

Place in fridge to chill.

While the cake balls chill, melt and temper the chocolate. Set your microwave on a medium setting (for my microwave that is 5). Break up half the chocolate bar into a Pyrex or microwave-safe bowl. Make sure there is no water in the bowl or any utensils you are using.



Melt the chocolate at 30-second intervals until 90 percent is melted. Stir to speed up the melting process. Chop the remaining half of the chocolate bar into small chunks. Add to melted chocolate. Let sit for 10 seconds and stir until combined.

Take the cake balls out of the fridge, dip the sticks into chocolate, and insert them into cake pops. Repeat until finished.

Once chocolate has set on sticks (not shiny anymore, matte finish), dip cake pop into chocolate. I recommend to constantly stir the chocolate so it stays a good temperature. If the chocolate becomes thick and hardened, place back into microwave, reheat gently and stir.

Add in extra pieces of room temperature chocolate if you have to. It is best to work in a warm kitchen so the chocolate doesn't harden as quickly.

Decorate cake pops with sprinkles, halva or a drizzle of melted chocolate. Another variation for the pops is to leave out the sticks and simply dip the cake balls in chocolate and set in mini cupcake liners. These are cute, easy and much faster to prepare.

Store pops in fridge until serving. You can freeze the pops wrapped tightly in plastic wrap, an airtight container or a sealed plastic bag.

REBECCA PLINER, with a background in fashion design, cooking and pastry, brings different aspects of creativity to her recipes from concept to plating. She runs a dessert company in New York City called I want that Dessert, iwantthatdessert.com. You can also find Rebecca on instagram @iwantthatdessert. The Nosher food blog offers a dazzling array of new and classic Jewish recipes and food news, from Europe to Yemen, from challah to shakshuka and beyond. Check it out at www.TheNosher.com.

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JV

The Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island presents an evening of dialogue, learning, and community.

DRASH & dessert

V'ahavta L'reacha Kamocha: *Love your neighbor*

Saturday, March 5 | 7:30pm
Dwares JCC | 401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence

The Torah's dictate to "love your neighbor as yourself" has inspired Jews and non-Jews for millennia. In our times, it remains extremely relevant and, at times, profoundly challenging. Who is a "neighbor," and is anyone excluded from the class? Can we truly love others if we don't love ourselves first? What if "your neighbor" poses a threat?

Join the Board of Rabbis for a meaningful evening of learning, study, and practice, together, as we build spiritual community together and try to "practice what we preach."

Enjoy an assortment of desserts as well as a hot chocolate bar. *There is no cost associated with this event.*

7:30pm Havdalah and Introductory Session | **8:00pm Five Learning Sessions**

Session 1
From Cuba to Newport: Helping Jewish Communities Around the World
LED BY:
Rabbi Sarah Mack
Rabbi Marc Mandel

Session 2
Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh: A Workshop on the Names of God
LED BY:
Rabbi James Rosenberg

Session 3
Cultivating Love: Spiritual Techniques
LED BY:
Rabbi Elan Babchuck
Rabbi Mark Elber
Rabbi Barry Dolinger

Session 4
We Can End Homelessness in RI!
LED BY:
Rabbi Alan Flam
Members of the Speakers Bureau of the RI Coalition for the Homeless

Session 5
Jews and Christians: Speaking to Each Other with Respect
LED BY:
Rabbi Wayne Franklin
Rabbi Richard Perlman
Pastor Dennis Kohl

For more information contact Larry Katz at 401.421.4111 ext. 179 or lkatz@jewishallianceri.org.



PHOTO | JEWISH VOICE

Thoughts of spring and golf

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's 31st Annual Golf Tournament Co-Chairs, Rick Granoff and Jamie Pious, pictured at left, with Alliance CEO & President, Jeffrey Savit, Dan Hamel, Robyn Goldstein, and Hillary Schulman.

The tournament will take place June 6 at Alpine Country Club in Cranston. All money raised for the tournament will benefit the Dwares JCC programming, strengthening the Jewish identities for younger Rhode Island generations.

For more information regarding the tournament, contact Hillary Schulman at hschulman@jewishallianceri.org, or 401-421-4111, ext. 127.



Rhode Islanders at the Hadassah conference.

Four Rhode Island women attend Northeast leadership day

BY SUE MAYES

Ellen Fingeret, of North Providence, Betty Ann Israelit, of Providence, Sue Mayes, of Middletown, and Michele Keir, of Warwick, represented Rhode Island Feb. 7 at an all-day leadership conference, "Telling Our Stories," in Waltham, Massachusetts, sponsored by Hadassah Northeast. More than 50 Jewish women gathered to hear national and local speakers talk about Hadassah as the organization of "the power of women who DO." The theme of "Research in Service to Humanity" was introduced.

Speakers touched on techniques for sharing all of Hadassah's impressive local and international accomplishments. The importance of this cutting-edge research was brought to a personal level when Michele Keir shared her hope and confidence in stem cell treatments for neurological diseases presently in development at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. Research for a cure for Parkinson Disease is of special interest to Keir who, along with four family members, has this disease. Other Hadassah-sponsored research for ALS, Alzheimer's, Multiple Sclerosis, breast cancer and glaucoma were of particular interest and were addressed in this meeting.

The upcoming Hadassah Rhode Island Shabbat service will be held at Temple Torat Yisrael on Middle Road in East Greenwich on March 18, to honor the 104th anniversary of the founding of Hadassah.

Hadassah is the largest volunteer women's organization in the United States. Information about Hadassah Rhode Island is available on the chapter's web site (hadassah.org/rhodeisland) and Facebook page (facebook.com/Hadassah-Rhode-Island-192804917437025) or by contacting the chapter at 401-463-3636.

SUE MAYES is president of Hadassah Rhode Island chapter.



Confirmation class travels to Washington D.C.

Members of Temple Sinai's Confirmation class recently visited Washington, D.C. Standing on the North Portico of the White House are (left to right): Lev Simon, Nate Wolfgang, Jack Gabrilowitz, Shayna Goldstein, Hannah Glucksman, and Rabbi Jeff Goldwasser.



Kosher Senior Café moving

Don't forget! The Kosher Senior Café at the Dwares JCC is moving March 2 to its temporary site at Temple Emanu-El.

During the renovations of the Jewish Alliance's Dwares JCC, seniors can still find the café Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the new site. After March 2, call the new number, 401-338-3189, for more information.

Ex-Israeli PM Ehud Olmert enters prison to serve sentence for corruption

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Ehud Olmert entered an Israeli prison to begin his 19-month sentence on a corruption conviction, becoming the first Israeli prime minister to serve jail time.

Prior to arriving at the prison in central Israel on the morning of Feb. 14, Olmert released a video statement in which the former leader proclaimed his innocence.

"As prime minister, I was entrusted with the supreme responsibility of protecting the citizens of Israel, and today it is I who is about to be closed behind bars," Olmert said.

"It's important to me at this point to say again, as I have said in the court and outside of it, that I reject outright the charges related to bribery. It is also important to emphasize that none of the charges of which I was convicted was related to my activity during the period in which I served as prime minister."

During his service as prime minister, Olmert said, "I also made mistakes, even though in my opinion they were not of a criminal nature. Today I am paying a high price for some of them, perhaps too high. I accept the sentence with a very heavy heart, but no one stands above the law."

He suggested, however, that perhaps "the legal snowball of my affairs went on and grew for a variety of additional reasons that were not just legal."

In December, Israel's Supreme Court cut Olmert's prison term in the corruption case to 18 months from six years after acquitting him of receiving the larger of the two bribes for which he was convicted. Last week, the Jerusalem District court extended the sentence by a month.



Ehud Olmert

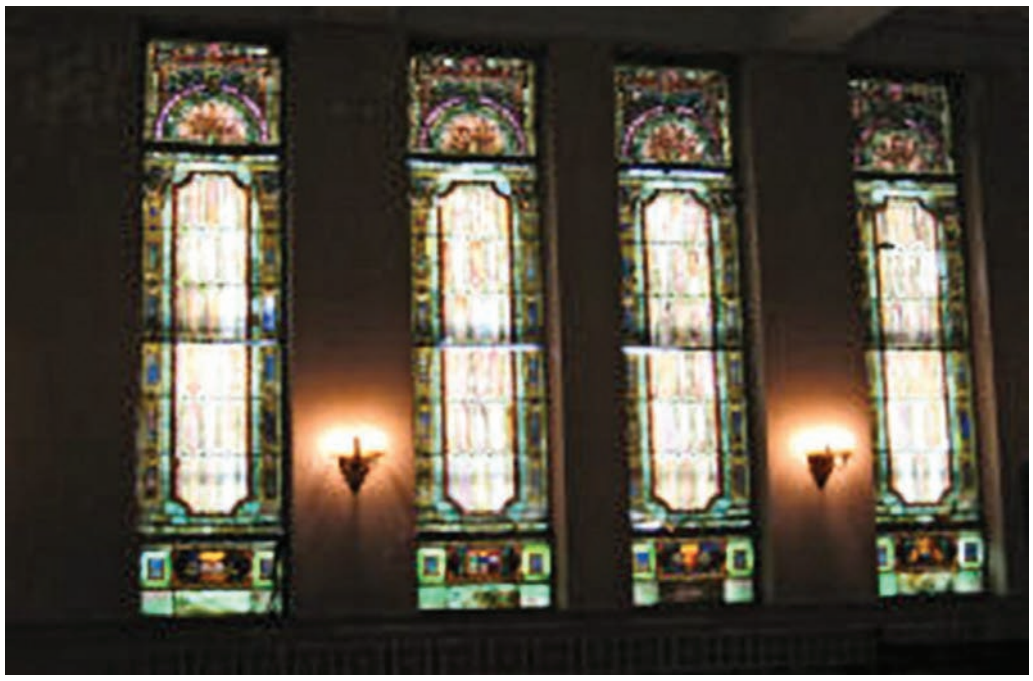
The Holyland affair, what is being called the largest corruption scandal in Israel, involved the payment of bribes to government officials by the developers of a luxury high-rise apartment complex in Jerusalem.

Olmert resigned as prime minister in September 2008 after police investigators recommended that he be indicted in multiple corruption scandals.

In May, Olmert was sentenced to eight months in prison after being convicted for accepting cash-filled envelopes from an American-Jewish businessman, Morris Talansky, and using it for personal and not political expenses. The case is under appeal to the Supreme Court.

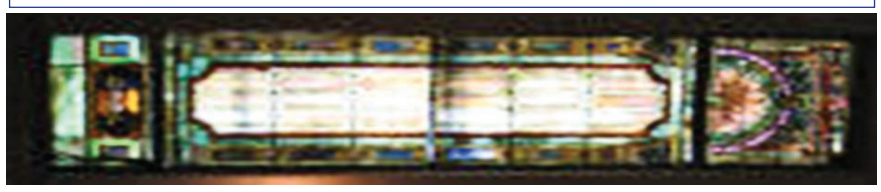
FUN AND FACTS FOR KIDS

Sponsored by the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association | info@rijha.com | Written by Ruth L. Breindel



Windows from Shaare Zedek in South Providence. Photo courtesy of Mel Blake and the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association.

DID YOU KNOW: NAMES OF SYNAGOGUES, TEMPLES AND SHULS HAVE MEANING! The names given to buildings and congregations have meaning for their members. Sometimes, the name refers to where the people came from: Congregation Bais Isrual/Israel Anshoy Histriech, also known as Congregation Beth Isrual/Israel Anshoy Austria, founded in 1906, tells us that these people came from Austria. Another group, founded in 1903, was called Congregation Ahavath Achim of the City of Slawitz; Slawitz seems to have been in Poland, or might be another form of the word Slavic, meaning someone from Eastern Europe. The name might refer to where they were in Providence, such as the South Providence Hebrew Congregation. Often the names in Hebrew reflected the philosophy of the group: Shaare Zedek means gates of (the) righteous. All of these groups were Orthodox; the terms "congregation," "*shul*" and "synagogue" are Orthodox; "synagogue" can also be Conservative, and "Temple" is usually Conservative or Reform. However, groups can really use any of these terms!



Following is a list of meanings and names of old and current temples, congregations and synagogues that were in Providence in the early 1900s and later. See if you can translate their names:

Hebrew words and meanings

achim – brothers
agudath – society of
ahavath – love
am – people
anshe – people of (with place name)
beth – house
bnai – sons of
hadas – myrtle plant
hakolel (hakollel) – the learned gathering
hazedek – the righteous
kesher – connection
machzekas – grasp
mishkon – dwelling place
shaare – gates of the
shalom/sholom – peace
tfilah – prayer
tifereth – splendor
torah – first 5 books of the Old Testament
zion – Israel

Temples, congregations and synagogues

Agudath Hakolel
Ahavath Achim
Am David
Anshe Kovno (Kovno: city in Lithuania)
Beth Am
Beth Sholom
Bnai Zion
Kesher Israel Anshei Sfard
Lenas Hazedek
Machzekas Hadas
Mishkon Tfilah
Shaare Zedek
Tiferet Israel

Married in Vegas

Looking for a quickie Jewish wedding in Las Vegas? Call Rabbi Mel Hecht

BY RON KAMPEAS



LAS VEGAS (JTA) – Rabbi Mel Hecht clutches his black coffee and paces in front of the Dunkin' Donuts just down the road from the Red Rock Casino.

It's 2:27 p.m., and the couple said they'd be here by 2:20. The photographer has an appointment at Bellagio at 5 p.m., and he wanted to get started by 2:30.

"Here she comes," says the photographer, Britt Pierson.

Karen Butt, resplendent in a teal bridal gown and carrying a bouquet of cloth flowers, is waving from the stretch limo idling in the parking lot unable to fit into a space. She trots across and apologizes for being late, but it's all good because Hecht has turned on his rabbinical calm, flashing a huge toothy grin framed by his trim, white beard.

Her bridegroom, Craig Silver, follows in her wake, patting his inside pocket, making sure he has the rings.

Hecht sets about calming the nervous couple.

"I thought this was a circumcision," he says.

Silver laughs, relieved – a little relieved, anyway. He's getting married, after all. He launches into a story about how his mother insisted on a doctor for his own circumcision, which wasn't a thing 59 years ago like it is today, but thinks better of finishing and trails off.

Hecht explains how to get from the parking lot to the actual Red Rock – not the casino, but the geological formation just west of this city.

"Meet us at the first turnoff," he says.

The rabbi slips into his white SUV and checks the back seat with a pat for his gear: the battered, black leather briefcase stuffed with a kiddush cup, a golden *tallit*, an array of marriage certification stamps and an ancient Rabbinical Assembly prayer book. And a wine glass wrapped in a napkin.

Hecht has this routine down. He's about to turn 77, and he's been doing this since he arrived in Las Vegas in 1980 from Fort Pierce, Florida, where he was a congregational rabbi.

Call Graceland Wedding Chapel, scroll through the five Elvis options (from $199 for basics to $799 for dueling Elvises), ask about the "Yes, we do offer Jewish ceremonies" on the website's FAQ page, and the lady on the phone will tell you, "Call Rabbi Mel." There used to be another guy, she says, but he's gone. Now it's just Rabbi Mel.

Hecht confirms there was another guy, but he also can't remember the name. That's Las Vegas: People come and go and are forgotten.

Or it once was Las Vegas. Hecht is a holdover from the last of the city's Wild West days, the 1980s, when there wasn't much of an established Jewish community here, just two or three synagogues and folks moving in and out.

He came to serve an established synagogue but it didn't work out, and he became the go-to guy for idiosyncratic Jewish weddings and funerals – rites that would make sense nowhere else but ring true in a town built by the Jewish mob, where roads just end and buildings rust half-completed, where Jewish would-be entertainers come to fail and Jewish one-time entertainers come to fade.

What once was Hecht's side vocation – ministering to the transient – has become his full-time job. Other rabbis build community; Hecht tends to those fleeing communities. Some are pornographers, gamblers or gangsters who disappear until they die, when they want Hecht to make sure their long-estranged families know that in the end, they did not forget they were Jewish.

Others are like Butt and Silver, pretending for one fantastical weekend that all they have is each other, leaving behind families complicated by divorce and generational tensions.

"Las Vegas is perhaps the only place that is not so much interested in someone's past as it is in how that person performs in the present," says Hecht, who charges $400 for your basic nuptials.

At the Graceland Wedding Chapel, Hecht has never played "Elvis the rabbi." But yes, there were Jewish brides who wanted an Elvis impersonator to sing before the ceremony, or after the ceremony, or in the middle of the ceremony. There was the bride who wanted Elvis walking her down the aisle.

Don't brides want their fathers to give them away? I ask.

"They don't come with the father," Hecht says. "With a select group, but not their parents."

Family in Las Vegas is not the one you're born into, it's the one you create. There was the Jewish showgirl who married an actor in the show. Like other wedding parties, she and her bridesmaids coordinated outfits. Unlike others, these were mesh dresses with very little underneath.

For the couple who wanted a Western wedding, Hecht appeared in dungarees, a three-quarter black coat, a wide-brimmed hat and a shotgun (unloaded). The Jewish costumers at Bally's who threw a Renaissance wedding for themselves dressed Hecht in the flat hat and cassock-like garment a contemporary rabbi might have worn.

Two days before Butt and Silver wed, Hecht meets me at a Starbucks near his home. (In Las Vegas, distances are marked by outlets, casinos and strip malls. "It's the one just past the Best Buy," he explains.)

Outfitted in a black pinstripe suit and white shirt, he's about to do a funeral: a man born to a Jewish mother and an Italian father who spent his life driving a cab and tending bar. He had started a family, abandoned it, then raised another – never marrying Jews, never raising his children Jewish. But one thing everyone in his family knew – from estranged to recent – was that he wanted to go out as a Jew.

Hecht will recite the *El Malei Rachamim* in English, to be true to the dead man's wishes, but also so the families will feel connected.

"The funeral home knew who to call because of my reputation," he says. "I'm a rabbi for all people, not just Jews."

Karen Butt got to Hecht by Googling "rabbis and Las Vegas"; Hecht had incredible reviews. (Not that he would know; he hates computers and his wife handles emails.)

Butt, 49, a clinical social worker in Old Lyme, Connecticut, and Silver, 59, who develops real estate, had met on JDate two years earlier, and they talked with Hecht over the phone. She knew he was the one. He sounded "familiar," she says, holding hands with Silver in the back of the limo.

"We wanted to focus on our marriage," Butt says, explaining why the wedding is in Las Vegas. "It gets more complicated with families." Silver chimes in: "We wanted it to be just about the two of us."

There are parents and kids from previous relationships. How many times have they been married?

"Never mind, just say we've been married before," Butt says.

The limo arrives at the first turnoff in the Red Rock Loop. Families are gathered by the roadside to gaze at the canyon.

"Aren't there too many people for a wedding?" Silver asks, having expected something a little more serene.

Butt, already out of the car, pulls Silver out.

"We're walking out of here Mr. and Mrs. Silver, that's all I know," she says.

The passers-by become part of the ritual, bikers whooping cheers to Hecht's grinning approval. This is Las Vegas, and family is who you make it in the moment.

Hecht throws the golden *tallit* over the couple. As they huddle, their faces etched in bliss, he blesses them in the first person plural, a "we" that encompasses himself, the couple's absent children (whom he names), Pierson the photographer, me, the bikers roaring by, the grinning family watching from the overlook, the Jewish dead and living.

"We wish you the kind of home that is made of more than stone and wood," the rabbi says, "that it will be an island that will protect you from the frenzy the world has become."

Out comes the wine glass wrapped in a napkin. Silver smashes it not once but twice.

Hecht pronounces them man and wife.

Jewish overnight camps create a long-lasting sense of community and belonging

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

According to a 2014 survey from the Pew Forum, 70.6 percent of the American population identifies as some type of Christian or Catholic. Of the remaining 29.4 percent, 1.9 percent identify as Jewish. That means that for every 100 random people in a room, theoretically approximately two people should be Jewish. It's easy to see how a young Jewish child might sometimes feel left out.

However, help arrives in the form of Jewish overnight camps.

Jewish summer camps bring kids together to learn about Judaism in environments that promote fun, learning and making friends. And while we often have these resources available at home in the form of religious day schools, after-school religious education programs, and other forms, learning is understandably more fun when the promise of swimming or sailing is part of the deal. Jewish summer camp is often even more mesmerizing for young ones when there is not only a promise to spend a long time away from mom and dad, but the idea is to spend some time in a completely new place – that is to say, embarking on an adventure of sorts.

For many young Jewish people, summer camp was important because it made them feel a part of a community where they weren't the minority. Such was the case for 24-year-old Arielle Cohen of North Attleboro, Massachusetts.



JORI campers try out the ropes course.

"Normally as a Reconstructionist Jewish youth I was in the minority. Camp was a place that brought the minority from across the country and made us a majority," says Cohen. She continues that it was "very empowering to be with like-minded but also very diverse youth."

This was a sentiment echoed by others – the opportunity to be a part of a community where their Jewish identity didn't deem them a minority. Twenty-five-year-old Valerie Glassman, who lived in Norton, Massachusetts, before traveling in South America last year, valued "seeing the different ways Judaism is celebrated throughout the U.S." At a time when the Israeli government has started embracing Judaism in all its forms, the idea that there is more than one way to be a good practitioner of Judaism is an important one to impart to children.

For 24-year-old Micah Levine of Burlington, Massachusetts, going away to summer camp was also a first chance "to try out being independent from my parents at a young age in a safe environment." Levine is not alone; for many young people, living away from mom and dad for a short period of time can have positive effects on their character development. An article in Psychology Today even notes that summer camps can make children more resilient in adulthood, as summer camps allow campers to "[take a] manageable amount of risks without a parent following after you."

One of these risks is homesickness. Homesickness is especially common in first-time campers, and something many people who go away to camp mention. However, 27-year-old Randy Oster of Stamford, Connecticut, provides a silver lining to undergoing this phenomenon. "The good part of this was that you were already in an incredibly supportive community where everyone understood and were ready to help when those feelings came up," he says.

And then there are campers who don't catch homesickness at all – the pure bliss of free and independent living stamps out any yearning for the comforts of home. Glassman was one of those campers.

"I wasn't homesick," she recalls, "I actually loved being away from home." Not to worry though – it doesn't necessarily mean they have forgotten about you. Glassman cited one of the benefits of overnight camp as "being away from family long enough to appreciate them a bit more."

Once campers do return home to the wide-open arms of their parents, though, the question arises of what to do with the friendships you've made. Especially in a camp that draws kids from around the country, what do you do when it's time to go home?

Social media, Oster says, has helped.

"Social media helped us all stay in touch until we could see each other again," says Oster, "but it was difficult not seeing all of the friends that I lived with and made such strong connections with during each session at camp."

The effects of summer camp can even last into adulthood. Cohen mentioned the ability to call on a network of summer camp friends when you're older and traveling around the country, and Oster attributes going away to summer camp to kick-starting his desire for travel. He has since lived in Israel and traveled around Central America. These are only a few ways that summer camp positively affects child development.

The American Camp Association points out that camp is one of the few institutions that not only encourages physical activity and creative expression – which is important as physical education and arts classes are being cut more and more from school curriculums around the country – but also fosters a real sense of community. And community is timeless and always worthy of pursuit.

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





We are thinking about summer J-Camp at the Dwares JCC, are you?

BY SETH FINKLE
Sfinkle @jewishallianceri.org

March is right around the corner, which means it is time to start thinking about the summer! Seems far away but your children will be out of school before you know it. What should you do with your children this summer? Send them to the Dwares JCC J-Camp – of course!

The Dwares JCC will be going through renovations starting in March, but J-Camp will be open through it all. We are well under way to planning an even better summer than last year. We will continue the tradition of variety for campers. They will be able to discover activities they enjoy. In addition, new this summer, we have more opportunities for your children to experience theater as well as the spoken word. Campers will be able to make, and take home, pottery, do building challenges and tie-dye their very own shirts. We will continue to have special guests on Fridays, and I am pleased to announce that the award-winning Rhode Island performer, Keith Munslow, will return.

Campers will not want to miss our Creepy Creatures week. Dave Machetti will be back with his snakes, turtles and alligator. Thursdays will continue to be field trip day. In addition to some old favorites such as the Boston Children's Museum and EcoTarium, we will head to Mystic Aquarium, Southwick Zoo and Yawgoo Valley Water Park.

We are excited that Absolute Fun Party Rentals in Rhode Island is helping to sponsor our end-of-summer carnival, where we will have a selfie booth and carnival games as well as the very popular dunk tank. Will you be able to dunk the director? All campers and their families are invited to this end of camp event.

This summer we will once again be hosting an Israeli *shaliach* or emissary. The *shaliach* we bring to camp goes through very intensive training in Israel. Here, he or she learns about how to bring Israel to life at camp. The *shaliach* program helps to enhance our Israeli and Jewish culture at J-Camp. The training occurs in April on a kibbutz outside of Tel-Aviv. This year, I will be going to the training in Israel. The JCCA selected only 10 camp directors from throughout the country to attend this training for free through a program called Israel Up Close. I feel fortunate that I was one of the 10 selected to participate. I look forward to letting everyone know about the training and about the *shaliach* who will be joining us this summer.

Summer will be here before you know it, and we are looking forward to a fun-filled, amazing and exciting summer here at the Dwares JCC.



The dunk tank was popular at last year's J-Camp end-of-summer carnival.

SETH FINKLE is director of Camp Haverim and teen programming coordinator at the Jewish Alliance.



Camp JORI is a Rhode Island institution

BY JEWISH VOICE STAFF

Originally founded in 1909 as the Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island, Camp JORI has served as Rhode Island's Jewish overnight camp since 1937. A team of adult staff, skilled specialists and counselors remain deeply invested in a culture that cares for all children in a truly egalitarian and pluralistic community.

Located on Worden's Pond in Wakefield, the camp provides day camp for youngsters, co-ed overnight camp, leadership program for older campers, and an Israel travel program. Children make lifelong friends, build skills, self-esteem and independence, all in a Jewish atmosphere. For more information, contact Camp JORI at info@campjori.com.

Here is a taste of JORI from the voices of those whom JORI has transformed, in their own words.

LIT Boys say thanks for everything

We the LIT (Boys of Trip 2 would like to reflect not on this summer, but on every JORI summer of our lives as a whole. Some of us have been going to JORI since before we can remember, others less so. We all came to JORI for different reasons, but no matter the reason, we are all different for it.

I came to camp as a naive 3-foot-tall 60 pound boy who just wanted to have fun. Well, 10 summers later, that little punk is now a man. During, my years here, I've learned to take care of myself and others while still having fun. I've learned how to deal with my own problems the proper way, and I've learned to make the right decisions on my own.

We may not agree on everything, but we do all agree that without Camp JORI we would not be the people we have become. Looking back, we've all made friendships that will last a lifetime, and we've learned lessons and skills that have allowed us to become the adults we all are and form a vision for the people we will strive to become.

There's no need to list the people who made our summers here great because you know who you are. On behalf of all the LITs, thank you camp JORI for the best summers of our lives.



We LOVE camp JORI!

It's the most fun camp experience I've ever had! I can't imagine going to any other camp!

Just a FEW of the things I love about JORI are:

* late night cookie raids!
* overnights!
* the camp musical!
* TUBING!!!!
* 4th of July everything!!!!
* Speaking in Hebrew to Israeli counselors!
* ARTS and CRAFTS!!
* ever-lasting friends

See you this June!

Meegan & Leila (mostly Leila, of course!)



Letter Home

Dear Mom,

Today was the best day of my life!
First of all Olympics broke out a couple of days ago, and it was delayed because of the rain. But today we played water polo and won. Then we had meetball subs for lunch. Now the best part happened like five minutes ago. We were playing soccer. Oh, by the way, I'm on blue. So in soccer we played a great game. First Sajad kicked a goal from half field (1-0). Then Brett on the other team got a goal (1-1). It was tied, and we went into a shootout. The first round nobody scored then the second round nobody scored except me, and I won the game.

The whole camp was there. Eli, my counselor/coach, picked me up and gave me a piggyback ride around the field.

IT FELT SO GOOD!!!! I was crying!

Love Sammy

I AM FROM

I am from clear summer skies
and nighttime stars.
Sunrises over Worden's Pond
and sunsets in that same place.
I am from summers that couldn't come soon enough
and summers that go by too quickly.
I am from friendships that last a lifetime
and role models who taught me the correct way.
I am from lasting memories
good or bad.
I am from sports,
waterfront,
and campfires that go on all night.
I am from many firsts
first back flips
first kisses
and first armpit hairs.
I am from life lessons
how to dress myself,
fold my clothes,
and look after myself.
I am from maturity
confronting my fears,
and learning from them.
I am from lasts
last periods,
last candy calls,
last overnights,
and last banquets.
I am from tears
of pain,
of sadness,
and happiness.
I am from the place I spent the majority of my childhood
I am from the safest place on earth
I am from the place I've called home every summer

I am from Camp JORI!





JORI assistant director: Why would he go anywhere else?

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

There is something special about joining a long-standing family legacy. Last summer, 26-year-old Aaron Guttin joined his family's legacy when he took on the role of assistant director at Camp JORI. The Guttin family has played key roles at the Jewish summer camp for three generations, sharing Jewish values and providing a place for campers to grow and have fun, and Aaron says he is excited to do the same.

It all started with his grandfather, who was the head counselor at JORI during World War II. While his brothers had been drafted, Aaron's grandfather couldn't fight because he had diabetes. When the Army requested that he help his country in an alternative way, he decided to work at the camp and help take care of the kids whose parents were part of the war effort. After Aaron's grandfather came Aaron's mother, Ronni Saltzman-Guttin, who was the camp's director for 20 years, until the summer of 2015.

Before he accepted his role, however, Aaron put in a lot of time at JORI. He has been involved with the camp professionally for 10 years. During many of those years, he would save up his sick and vacation days in the off-season so he could work at JORI in the summers. While he also spent much of his life as a JORI camper, he says his first true acquaintance with the camp was when he was just 4 years old.



PHOTO | ARIEL BROTHMAN

Aaron Guttin with Camp Director Deb Salinger.

"I started quite literally as the staff kid who was annoying everybody," Aaron says of his first experiences at JORI, "and now here I am making sure that the staff kids don't annoy everybody."

While that is certainly one of Aaron's duties, it actually catches the essence of Aaron's main role, which is basically ensuring that all who are involved in the camp are feeling happy and safe. Aaron also oversees all of the programs and organizes many of them as part of the directing team. His philosophy focuses a lot on the concept of providing experiential learning.

"The term 'experiential learning' is thrown around a lot, especially in the Jewish world," he says. "My view of Jewish education is to meet people where they are." He continues to give examples of how Jewish education and values can be infused into a variety of activities that aren't necessarily Jewish, including carpentry and swimming. "I can infuse Judaism into anything. That is pertinent and clear at JORI; kids learn about Judaism and don't even realize it."

Aaron's philosophy has been shaped by a number of experiences, including many leadership experiences outside of JORI. Aaron was the youth coordinator at Temple Emanu-El and the director of Jewish life at URI Hillel, among other positions.

JORI has its own leadership program, which Aaron hopes to further develop. Campers who will enter 9th and 10th grades in the fall learn about putting together and running programs. They also travel outside of camp once a week and act as representatives for JORI. While they are still primarily campers, the goal is to give them a greater sense of responsibility and to learn about becoming good role models. Aaron hopes that this program, along with the camp's waterfront, will become "the gems of JORI."

Aaron says that his experiences at camp are what led him to where he is today.

"The reason I'm in Jewish professional work was because of my Jewish experience at camp," he says. "I thought I was going to be a teacher, then I thought I was going to rabbinical school, but things changed. I don't think I could have it any other way."

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

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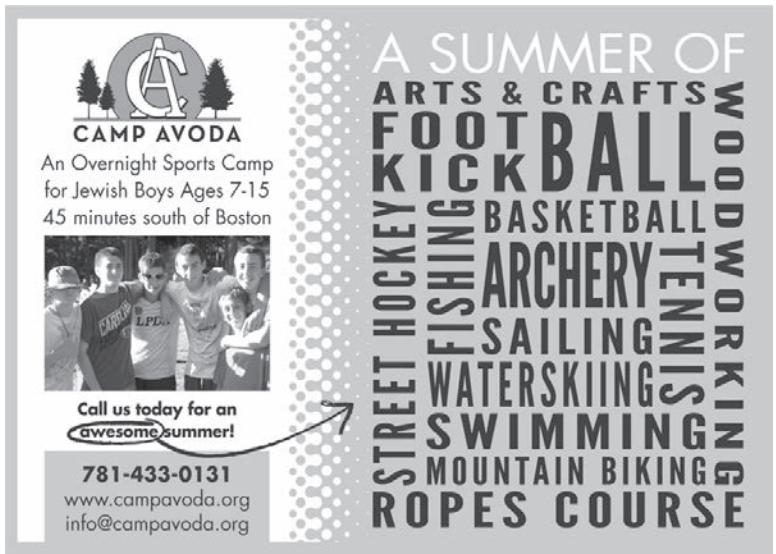
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Much to learn from many years of carefree summers

BY JULIE HERTZLINGER, LICSW

Summer camp. For me these words evoke images of playing softball under sky-high pine trees; waterskiing on a murky lake; and participating in dining hall sing-alongs with 400 other campers from throughout the northeast.

I spent my summers at Jewish overnight camp for more than a decade – beginning as an 8-year-old and later working as a counselor alongside my childhood friends. As a college student, this was sometimes an embarrassing confession. My friends were beginning to look toward their future and applying for coveted internships in consulting and investment banking. I was holding onto my carefree summers as long as possible. I happily signed up to live in a graffiti covered, hot water deficient cabin for two sweaty months each summer in the woods of New Hampshire.

To those who didn't attend Jewish overnight camp – or any overnight camp – the idea of sending your children away for weeks at a time might feel insensitive or even cruel. As a parent of two young children, I now can understand how unnerving it would be to drive my daughters to the woods and leave them in the care of a bunch of generally responsible high school and college students for eight weeks. I wondered, would they ever wash their hair? Eat a vegetable? Get a hug? As a lifelong ex-camper, I can easily say – maybe, maybe not. I do recall grilled cheese and Chipwich lunches as the camp favorite, and I once remember squeezing the contents of half a toothpaste bottle into the sink on the last night of camp.



Though my parents might not have approved of my deficient personal hygiene, what I did gain at camp went far beyond the carefree environment of ice cream sandwiches and late bedtimes. I was given the autonomy to make choices: arts and crafts or tennis; volleyball team or lazing around during rest hour; sticking with my friends or trying something new on my own? As an introverted, self-conscious child, I was forced to navigate the – at times – intimidating social hierarchy. I learned and practiced Jewish prayers and traditions – daily prayers at meals, weekly Shabbat services and Friday night Israeli dancing. I was far more religiously observant at camp than I have been at any other time in my life. And though I no longer attend weekly Shabbat services, I do very much appreciate the culture and tradition that camp instilled in me.

Though not all my memories from camp are happy ones (Lice! Poison ivy! Stressful pre-teen dances!), what I do value is that at nearly 40-years-old, I still refer to the friends I met at camp as "my camp friends." I can bump into another former camper on the street after not seeing her for 15 years and talk as if we were just hanging by the flagpole, and I still know all the lyrics to American Pie. … And, as a parent, the idea of having a child-free house for a few weeks doesn't seem all that bad.

JULIE HERTZLINGER, LICSW, is a social worker in the case management program at Jewish Family Service of Rhode Island.

Teens gather at BBYO winter event

BY SAMANTHA WALSH

HARTFORD, CONN. – On Jan. 29-31, more than 300 high school teens attended BBYO's Winter Kallah here.

Focused on the theme of Survivor, teens engaged in speaker and interactive sessions including LGBT+ Inclusion Training, Medic First Aid Training, Krav Maga, Facing Anti-Semitism on College Campus, and a Holocaust panel discussion. Additionally, teens participated in educational training including discussions about domestic violence, substance abuse and homelessness. Teens also attended a Wolfpack hockey game and business meetings. The Alephs elected a regional president for the second half of the year.

One of the highlights of the program was a powerful coming of age ceremony, a B'nai Mitzvah with four teens from both New England region and Connecticut Valley region and one Holocaust survivor.

"I am so honored and proud to say that I became a Bat Mitzvah this weekend," said Rachel Levine, a senior at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School. "I never thought I'd get to this point, let alone be this involved in BBYO. As president of my chapter, BBYO has helped me become a leader, strengthen my Jewish identity and make lifelong friends. I want to thank everyone that helped me get to where I am today, and I'm so lucky to have such amazing and supportive friends. I am so glad I got to celebrate with my BBYO family, and this is a day I will never forget."



"Doing my Bar Mitzvah with my brother Alephs, sister BBGs and a Holocaust survivor was remarkably powerful," said Drew Siegal, a sophomore at Beaver County Day School. "It was so powerful, that I was legitimately speechless after. It was an experience that I will never forget, and I am so grateful that I was offered the opportunity to become a Bar Mitzvah."

BBYO's high school leadership program and fraternity and sorority – the Aleph Zadik Aleph (AZA) for boys and the B'nai B'rith Girls (BBG) for girls – feature teen-led programming designed to reflect the interests of the teens involved. Diverse chapter and regional school-year programs and summer experiences at camp, on campus and around the world offer teens ways to meet new people, explore new ideas, play sports, connect with their Jewish heritage and learn about Israel.

AZA and BBG allow teens an opportunity to gain invaluable leadership skills, participate in service and advocacy projects and a chance to explore the world as part of an international network of Jewish teens.

Upcoming BBYO events in New England include a Beau Sweetheart Dance on March 5, a Spring Convention on April 1-3, and J-Serve on April 17.

SAMANTHA WALSH is regional director, BBYO New England region. For more information, you can contact her at 401-490-1030 or swalsh@bbyo.org.

There's a camp for everyone

BY RONNI GUTTIN

I have been a camp director for 20 years. I love to tell parents that "there is a camp that is just right for everyone, but the same camp is not the right one for everyone." Probably, some parents are tired of hearing me say that, but I REALLY believe it! There are specialty camps, co-ed camps, teen camps, and short stay camps. The Foundation for Jewish Camp promotes and assists all of them. One of them is a good choice for each camper.

Camp is fun! It allows children to learn self-reliance, develop independence, meet new people and navigate social situations. Jewish camps add another layer to all of that … an opportunity to live in an immersive Jewish community that has a unique way of expressing its connection to Judaism and to Israel. I love camp and believe in it as an essential unifying experience for Jewish kids and their families.

After 20 years as the director of the camp where I grew up, I decided to make a change. I am now the director of Camp Avoda, an all-boys camp in nearby Massachusetts. After years at a co-ed camp, it feels very natural to become part of the brotherhood. My early impressions have yielded some surprises and met many of my expectations. I assumed that I would see enthusiasm, camaraderie, lots of activity and even enormous quantities of pizza consumed by campers and staff.

So, I wasn't surprised that the young men at Camp Avoda use their camp experience to engage in interesting Shabbat evening discussions, or vie for the honor of being "Rabbi" for the summer.

I read the literature for Camp Avoda. Brotherhood. Leadership. Spirit and Tradition. I was prepared to become part of it. What I didn't anticipate was the Avodian's lifetime adherence to these values. In November, I sat in a room filled with Avoda alumni who manned the phones and raised $30,000 in less than two hours so that we would have scholarship money for younger campers. Yes, the calls were accompanied by plenty of pizza and amazing stories about our camp.

In January, I was greeted by campers and staff at our annual reunion as though I was already family. I listened to boys of all ages talk about their summer experience with love and make plans for the upcoming summer. Yes, you guessed it, pizza was on the menu.

Single gender camps are one of the choices that are available to families. Even before my first summer at Camp Avoda, I have learned a great deal about the brotherhood that is the hallmark of the Camp Avoda experience. An all-boys camp allows campers to enjoy the high level of physical activity that many boys love while offering quality instruction in woodworking, arts and crafts, climbing, ropes adventure course and plenty of time on the waterfront.



If you visit, you will see small groups of campers sitting on porches talking, playing cards, singing and telling jokes. They will greet you with hands outstretched to say hello and to bring you into the fold. You will hear counselors guiding them to play hard and to treat one another with kindness. You will feel the energy and the confidence in the air as you watch younger campers guided by older campers, CITs and staff to learn new skills and make good decisions. It is easy to see why Avodians are proud of their alumni who have made contributions to the world in big ways … philanthropy, government, business, medicine … the list goes on. And, they continue to give back to their Camp Avoda.

As for me? I am eagerly counting the days until I move into my new house at camp. I will proudly wear my Camp Avoda beanie in the dining room and on Shabbat. I will definitely not be painting the bathrooms pink!

RONNI GUTTIN is director of Camp Avoda and lives in Cranston. She says she still loves camp and recommends that everyone find the right one for their family.

Summer Camp – You can go; Jewish Alliance can help

BY HILLARY SCHULMAN
hschulman@jewishallianceri.org

Every child looks forward to summer. No school, the weather is beautiful, and, for many children, the opportunity to go to summer camp. But why choose a Jewish camp? Isn't camp expensive anyway?

According to the Foundation for Jewish Camp, Jewish camp has played a significant role in creating positive Jewish identity with children. Luckily, Rhode Island has Jewish camps. Two examples are J-Camp in Providence, and Camp JORI in Wakefield.

One of Rhode Island's Jewish day camps, J-Camp, is housed at the Jewish Alliance's Dwares JCC. With Director Seth Finkle and Chief Program Officer Michelle Cicchitelli at the helm, J-Camp has become a fun, educational and inclusive way for children to spend their summer vacation. Spread across all denominations as well as non-Jewish families. J-Camp has something for everyone.

The highly qualified counselors bring in coordinated Judaic themes every day that focus on universal human values. Campers enjoy weekly field trips and visits from special guests, have swim lessons, lots of outdoor play, and activities that focus on a variety of interests such as art, cooking, sports, science, nature, acting and travel.

Camp JORI also has everything your child needs to have an extraordinary summer experience. Located in Wakefield, Camp JORI sits on 72 acres right on Worden's Pond. Camp JORI has many different programs for all types of campers in grades K-10. There is an overnight program, a day program, and even a program for campers who just want to try out the overnight experience for a weekend. JORI also boasts a Leaders-in-Training (LIT) program for campers entering grades 9 and 10, allowing them to become mentors to younger campers; engage in community service; and hone their leaderships skills for the future. JORI's comprehensive program of sports, arts, adventure and amazing activities are enhanced by Jewish and Israeli culture. The motto: TACEO – Taking Care of Each Other.

But, what if you can't afford summer camp for your child? As part of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's Annual Campaign allocations, you have the opportunity to apply for scholarships. For both JORI and J-Camp, these scholarships give a wonderful opportunity to children who are unable to afford camp. By giving out scholarships, both JORI and J-Camp are able to ensure every family has a chance to send their child to camp.

Last year, the Alliance's Annual Campaign awarded a total of about $1,500 in scholarships to five J-Camp families and $35,000 in scholarships to about one-quarter of the total families at JORI.

One J-Camp family that received a scholarship expressed their gratitude to Seth Finkle by saying, "My son went for the first time last summer and right after it ended, he immediately asked me if he was going back. I'm looking forward to sending him and his younger brother who is now old enough to go this year." Without a scholarship, this family would not have attended camp and not made lifelong friendships.





Camping fun at Camp JORI, above, and J-Camp right.

Scholarships to Camp JORI also have made a positive impact on many families. According to Director Deb Salinger, "The loving support of donors, alumni, volunteers and the direct contribution from the Alliance makes Jewish camping a reality for hundreds of children. These are the families we rally behind – those surviving on meager social security benefits; parents fighting cancer with mounting medical costs; and sudden job loss, homelessness, grandparents raising children and Russian emigres. As a community, we make it possible for these children to be cared for throughout the summer and have the same fun and enrichment freed from financial insecurity."

Parents tell us Jewish summer camp has proven to have a positive impact on campers. Neha Rauker, a J-Camp parent, said, "Thank you for another wonderful summer at the JCC. My girls are still talking about the amazing activities they did and the trips they went on. You really created a streamlined experience for both parents and campers. Because of the amazing experience Zia and Dylan had, I've noticed the girls are more willing to try new experiences, and foods. They really loved it there, and you and your staff were so wonderful. We are so glad to have been a part of the JCC camp."

JORI campers have the same feeling. Lisa Davis, who started sending her daughter to JORI two summers ago, said, "Talya loves JORI. She can't wait to go back! Her summer experiences carry her through each school year. Her very best friends are at camp, and she only gets to see them at JORI. It has also been really nice for us because not only is Talya making lifelong connections and friendships with other JORI campers, we've been able to make friends with other JORI parents as well."

Because of the Jewish Alliance's Annual Campaign, hundreds of children are able to experience Jewish camp, as they should. They are able to have meaningful summer vacations learning new skills; making lasting friendships; and solidifying their Jewish identity – all without financial worries.

You can help even more children have incredible summers by giving to the Jewish Alliance's Annual Campaign. For more information, contact Trine Lustig, vice president of philanthropy, at 401-421-4111, ext. 223, or tlustig@jewishallianceri.org.

HILLARY SCHULMAN is a development associate in philanthropy at the Jewish Alliance.

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Assi Azar to speak at URI

KINGSTON – Israeli television star, Assi Azar, will appear at the University of Rhode Island on Thursday, March 31 at 7 p.m. at an event co-sponsored by URI Hillel, the Gender and Sexuality Center and the Harrington School of Communication and Media. The program will take place at the Gender and Sexuality Center, 19 Upper College Rd., Kingston. It is one of several programs being held as part of URI's annual LGBTQ Symposium.

Co-host of Israel's versions of "Big Brother" and "American Idol" (The Rising Star), Assi Azar is one of the most popular, likable and influential entertainment personalities in Israel. He has used his celebrity and visibility to speak out for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) community, and was selected by "Out" magazine as one of the world's 100 most influential LGBTQ people in 2009.

Azar will screen and discuss his 45-minute documentary film "Mom and Dad: I Have Something to Tell You." The film, which was aired nationally on Israeli television, tells the story of his and others' coming out to their Israeli parents and the journey the parents undergo as a result.

In the discussion to follow the film, Azar will address what it is like to be gay in Israel in terms of laws and societal acceptance; the relationship between the LGBTQ communities and the religious communities in Israel; differences between Israeli and American society regarding gay issues; and gay rights in the Middle East.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Amy Olson at amyolson@uri.edu or 401-874-2740. This program is funded in part by the Hineinu Department of Hillel International.

For more information about URI's LGBTQ Symposium taking place March 28-April 2, please contact Annie Kosar at anniem@uri.edu.

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E-mail your pet's photo in jpeg format, high resolution (300 dpi) including caption information – the pet's name, your name, city/town and include your phone number (will not be published), with the subject heading, PETS ON PARADE to: **tstearly@jewishallianceri.org** or via regular mail to: Pets on Parade, *The Jewish Voice*, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

SEE PHOTOS OF THE PETS AT JVHRI.org

Impact of Justice Scalia's death on 6 cases that matter to Jews

BY RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON (JTA) – With the sudden passing this weekend of Justice Antonin Scalia, the Supreme Court is now split 4-4 between liberals and conservatives, throwing into doubt how the court will rule on a raft of cases – including several watched by Jewish organizations.

Scalia, who was 79, is being mourned by Orthodox Jewish groups, which embraced his robust originalist doctrine, as well as Jewish church-state separation advocates, who railed at some of his decisions but admired his sharp wit and dedication to upholding the Constitution.

Jewish groups are also monitoring with concern the emerging political battle: President Barack Obama has pledged to nominate a replacement and Republican leaders in the Senate are vowing not to consider a replacement until a new president takes office next year.

"This was a person who looms large in American society," Rabbi Jonah Pesner, who heads the Reform movement's Religious Action Center, said Feb. 15 in an interview. "It's initially about mourning his death, but it's also about affirming democracy."

Officials at Jewish organizations outlined six cases with implications for the Jewish community that may turn out differently absent Scalia's fifth conservative vote.



2015 U.S. Supreme Court Justices

Zubik v. Burwell

A number of religious organizations have since argued that the mere fact of filling in a government form that would allow employees to get contraceptive coverage elsewhere violates their rights.

Zubik v. Burwell consolidates seven challenges to the mandate. Before Scalia's death, a 5-4 conservative majority seemed the likeliest outcome based on the 2014 Hobby Lobby case, which allowed closely held companies to reject the contraceptive coverage mandate and split the court along conservative-liberal lines.

A split decision would allow the seven lower court decisions to stand. That would be chaotic since they had a range of outcomes, some favoring and some opposing the Obama administration.

"If [Justice Anthony] Kennedy votes with conservatives, we've got a mess," said Steve Freeman, the director of legal affairs for the Anti-Defamation League, which has filed an amicus, or friend-of-the-court, brief on the government's side.

Liberals are hoping that Kennedy, the conservative who most often swings to the liberal side, may do so in this case. They cite his opinion concurring with the majority in the Hobby Lobby case, in which he lauded the very opt-out form under consideration in Zubik v. Burwell as "an existing, recognized, workable and already-implemented framework to provide coverage."

Nathan Diament, the Washington director of the Orthodox Union, which has joined an amicus brief backing the plaintiffs, said judicial flexibility could also go the other way. One or more of the liberal justices who bristled at the notion that private businesses had religious beliefs in Hobby Lobby might not be so opposed to the charitable groups represented in Zubik v. Burwell, he said.

"You're talking about nonprofit charitable religious organizations," Diament said. "You could imagine it swinging the other way."

Trinity Lutheran v. Pauley

This is the latest case to test the "Blaine Amendment" laws passed in 37 of 50 states banning their governments from funding religious institutions.

Liberals tout the laws as necessary protections against religious encroachment on public life. Conservatives note that the laws were passed largely owing to anti-Catholic bigotry toward the end of the 19th century as a means of keeping parochial schools from being funded.

In this case, a Missouri Blaine Amendment is keeping a church from benefiting from a state program that recycles tires into rubber used to repave playgrounds, making them safer.

On paper, it looks like a 4-4 split, which would keep the church from accessing the program, as lower courts have ruled for the state. That would be "good news for the ADL," said Freeman, which has filed an amicus brief on behalf of the state.

But Marc Stern, the general counsel to the American Jewish Committee, which has backed the church in an amicus brief, suggested Justice Stephen Breyer, the Jewish judge who has at times broken with fellow liberals on the court and decried church-state separation overreach, could side with the conservatives here.

Diament, whose O.U. is also planning an amicus brief, agreed that liberals might cross over in this case.

"We would hope you could have more than five justices striking down that Blaine Amendment," he said.

Fisher v. University of Texas

The Supreme Court in 2013 sent this case back to the appellate court in a 7-1 decision, saying the lower court's decision did not adequately take into account the high bar for allowing affirmative action set by earlier Supreme Court decisions. The appellate court reconsidered and came up with the same ruling: The university's affirmative action program is legal.

The program works this way: The top 10 percent of any graduating high school class in Texas is automatically admitted to the university, making up 75 percent of a freshman class. The remaining 25 percent are admitted through what the university calls a "holistic" system that takes race into account.

Abigail Fisher, the plaintiff, a white student who was not in the top 10 percent of her graduating class and did not qualify by "holistic" standards, says she suffered discrimination because of her race. Backed by groups that seek an end to affirmative action, she appealed again to the Supreme Court.

The ADL, the AJC and a number of Reform groups have filed amicus briefs backing the university consistent with the position long held by Jewish groups opposing race-based quotas, but favoring broad-based programs that advance diversity.

Justice Elena Kagan recused herself in 2013 and is doing so again in this case; as Obama's solicitor general in 2012, she filed an amicus brief favoring the university when the case was in a lower court.

Without Kagan, when Scalia was alive, the university appeared headed for a 5-3 defeat. The court's conservatives have long seemed to be itching to strike a blow against affirmative action, and Scalia made headlines when he wondered in December during oral arguments whether black students do better at "less advanced, slower track" schools.

The conservative majority remains in place at 4-3, but the ADL's Freeman said a shrunken seven-judge court might be reluctant to rule sweepingly and could favor a narrower ruling that would not have national implications.

Evenwel v. Abbott

The conservative activist plaintiffs in this case want Texas to apportion election district populations according to registered voters and not according to total population, which includes non-voters such as children, felons and non-citizen immigrants.

The Reform movement, the AJC and ADL have all joined briefs on behalf of Texas, favoring apportionment according to total population – a system that boosts the influence of urban areas, where non-voters are likelier to reside, and favors Democrats.

"Just because someone can't vote, it's important they're represented," Freeman said.

The judges seemed split during oral arguments in December along ideological lines. Scalia's absence could mean a 4-4 vote, which would revert the decision to a lower court that has ruled in favor of apportionment according to total population.

U.S. v. Texas

Texas led 26 states last year in filing lawsuits challenging the Obama administration's plans in late 2014 to add parents to a 2012 program that indefinitely defers the deportation of illegal immigrants who arrived in the United States as children.

Federal courts, heeding Texas and the other states, have put a hold on the program, which would apply to about 5 million undocumented immigrants.

The Obama administration has asked the Supreme Court to consider whether the states have standing to bring the suit.

The ADL and the National Council of Jewish Women have joined an amicus brief defending the Obama administration's prerogative in this case, and the AJC's Stern said his group plans to as well. Stern also noted that because the lower courts have favored the states, this is one of the cases where Scalia's absence is less consequential.

"We'll be supporting the administration, but if the court splits 4-4, the technical result is to affirm the Court of Appeals," which has upheld the states' right to sue to stop the program, he said.

Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt

A federal appeals court has upheld a Texas law mandating regulations on abortion clinics that reproductive rights advocates say are onerous and aimed primarily at shutting down abortion access. Among these are requirements that the clinics establish formal relationships with hospitals within a 30-mile radius. Owing to the anti-abortion climate in the state, most hospitals have declined such relationships.

An array of Jewish groups, including the Reform movement, the NCJW and the ADL, have joined amicus briefs backing abortion providers.

Reproductive rights advocacy groups, before Scalia's death, said the case could be as consequential as Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 ruling that expanded a woman's right to an abortion. The NCJW had asked members to rally in Washington, D.C., on March 2, when oral arguments are scheduled.

Ahead of oral arguments, it's difficult to assess which way the justices are leaning. Should they split 4-4, the case would devolve back to the 5th Circuit Appeals Court ruling upholding the law. Unlike a majority Supreme Court ruling, a split decision would not apply nationally and would only affect states covered by the 5th Circuit: Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

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Billionaire David Rubinstein donates $18.5M to repair Lincoln Memorial

JTA – Billionaire businessman and philanthropist David Rubenstein has donated $18.5 million to repair and restore the Lincoln Memorial.

The donation from Rubenstein, the co-CEO of The Carlyle Group, to the National Park Foundation's Centennial Campaign for America's National Parks was announced on Feb. 15, President's Day. In the past few years, he has given tens of millions of dollars to fix national parks.

His most recent gift will allow the National Park Service to repair damaged brick and marble masonry and clean the memorial; conserve the Jules Guerin murals located above the memorial's inscriptions; create approximately 15,000 square feet of functional space including exhibit, education and research areas; and add an elevator to improve accessibility, the park service said in a statement.

"These improvements will hopefully enable more people to better understand and appreciate Abraham Lincoln's remarkable leadership during one of the most trying periods in American history," Rubenstein said in the statement.

His donations over the past several years for parks and institutions total over $35 million. They went to the Washington Monument, George Washington's home in Mount Vernon, the Robert E. Lee Memorial and the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial.

Rubenstein, 66, of Bethesda, Maryland, is worth $2.3 billion, according to Forbes magazine. The Carlyle Group is a global alternative asset manager based in Washington, D.C.

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Accepting and resisting Jewish resting places

BY GEORGE M. GOODWIN

Who among us enjoys visiting cemeteries? It's an exhausting experience, often filled with sadness, grief and remorse. But consider the fate of countless Jews and other martyrs, who were denied proper burials or any words of blessing or farewell.

I do not come from a family of cemetery visitors. My mother's kin were buried in another corner of the country, and my father knew only one of his grandparents. Both my parents also had siblings who died far too young. My parents observed some *yahrzeits* at temple, but their clearest response to death was living full and vigorous lives. Even when on vacation, they seldom found time to rest.

My family was in one way blessed when marking a relative's end of days. My mother's uncle was a rabbi, and he officiated at many of our family funerals. Although usually a stirring and verbose speaker, he also knew when brevity and silence should prevail. In a somewhat humorous tone, he often cautioned congregants against boasting and bragging because of the common destiny that awaits us.

If I can think of a somewhat humorous response to mortality, however, it involves my father-in-law, who bought a dozen plots in his congregational cemetery north of Boston. While wanting to spend eternity with loved ones who might choose to be buried beside him, he abhorred the idea of being neighborly to acquaintances he couldn't stand.

My article about the strange gateway to Newport's Colonial Jewish burial ground was published in 2009 in the journal of the Rhode Island Historical Society. I had endeavored to solve a riddle: how could such a landmark be built in an Egyptian-revival style? Suffice it to say that it was fashionable in the 1840s, Masonic symbolism was appropriate for Jewish members, but Jews were not consulted on the gateway's design.

I have been privileged to visit and photograph several other historical Jewish burial grounds. Some of the most intriguing have been in Philadelphia; Charleston, South Carolina; Savannah, Georgia; Bridgetown, Barbados; and Athens. Of course, Berlin felt like nothing but a Jewish cemetery.

As a result of my genealogical research and searching nearly every grave in Zion Hill Cemetery, in Hartford, Connecticut, I found the resting places of my father's maternal great-grandparents, which he had not known about.

Nevertheless, my recurring response to historical Jewish burial grounds has also been upsetting. I find it difficult to honor once vibrant, willful and caring people within walled, cluttered or deteriorating surroundings. Notions of physical decay and spiritual beauty undermine each another. Eyes cannot measure what the heart beholds.

Perhaps I often feel repelled by Jewish cemeteries because death seems so alien to the Jewish sanctification, celebration and exultation of life. Yet, the *Kaddish*, among other holy watchwords, teaches us otherwise.

My favorite exceptions to the Jewish acceptance of mortality are found in two scenes of a Jewish cemetery, on Amsterdam's outskirts, created by Jacob Van Ruisdael. A leading 17th-century Dutch landscape painter, Van Ruisdael was a gentile. I believe that the true subject of his stormy works, which belong to art museums in Detroit and Dresden, Germany, is nature's power, especially its triumph over humankind. If Van Ruisdael's paintings depict the folly of hope, belief or reason, then they clash with Jewish teaching.

I must confess that, as my years in Rhode Island have grown, I recognize more and more names in its Jewish cemeteries. These include individuals whom I have known and embraced and others I have encountered through historical research. For many years I have also driven a former Rhode Islander on his annual pilgrimage to his family's graves in Lincoln Park. How could I not empathize with his sadness and anguish?

My brother, sister and I recently reached a point in our lives when we can ask ourselves about the meaning of our parents' resting places. Dad and Mom are buried in a sprawling ecumenical Jewish cemetery, close to their last home. Despite Southern California's scarcity of water, there is much greenery, which, exemplifying life, brings comfort. All gravestones, restricted to a uniform size, hug the mostly level ground. The cemetery's chapel, gently arched but open on three sides to the elements, is graciously unpretentious.

> **"Perhaps I often feel repelled by Jewish cemeteries because death seems so alien to the Jewish sanctification, celebration and exultation of life."**

It sounds petty, but I once objected to the modest inscriptions on my father's grave. The words are as meaningful as they are simple, but I did not care for the style of calligraphy or a few decorative carvings. When a cemetery official explained to me that my mother had chosen this design, I was willing to back off and accept the equivalent for her grave. Nevertheless, I still struggle with the eyes' and heart's irreconcilable differences.

So what have Betsey and I planned for our own resting places? To live a lot longer! Rabbi Leslie Gutterman once explained that buying a cemetery plot demonstrates that a person finally accepts his membership in a community.

I suppose that we would also like to remain closer to at least part of our far-flung family. Thus, my father-in-law's invitation is welcome, especially in view of our children's needs. I'll try to ignore any of his annoying acquaintances who may surround us.

GEORGE M. GOODWIN is beginning his 13th year as editor of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes. He recently began a third term on the board of the Rhode Island Historical Society.



Hipster startup sets Jewish Kickstarter record over $70K

JTA – A hip Jewish care-package project says it has become the most successful Jewish campaign ever on the Kickstarter crowdfunding platform.

After Hello Mazel reached $70,000, it became "the most-funded Jewish campaign in Kickstarter history," according to the Kickstarter campaign page launched Feb. 12. The project, which said it plans to send out four packages a year with "the best Jewish stuff," raised nearly $45,000 in less than one day.

The Day 1 goal for the project, whose leaders include Randi Zuckerberg, the sister of Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg, was to raise $18,000.

As of the afternoon of Feb. 14, more than 700 people had pledged at least $40 to receive a box whose precise contents are unknown. The campaign, which is slated to continue for 21 days, as of Feb. 14 had 707 backers at levels ranging from "$1 or more" to "$1,000 or more" and has raised $69,503. No one had signed up for the "$5,000 or more" level. Backers must give at least $40 to receive a box.

According to Hello Mazel's Kickstarter description, the idea was born two years ago at The Kitchen, a "start-up" alternative congregation in San Francisco.

"We thought to ourselves, 'There's got to be a way to get more Jewish to more people,' " the description says.

"Why do you need this?" it continues. "Because we believe there is a better, more chic, well-designed, super meaningful way into Jew-Land. And, for once, we've got directions."

While the contents of the boxes remain secret ("Oh, but if we told you, that would totally ruin the whole point, wouldn't it?"), Hello Mazel promises "plenty of delightfully fun, surprising bits of Jewishness" with "a visual and culinary aesthetic from 2016, not 1974."

"Hints" about the first box, promised to arrive in time for Passover, will include "3 twists on the tastes of Passover; A Haggadah like none you've ever used" and "A seder plate that is not a seder plate."

The Kitchen's Rabbi Noa Kushner is also involved in the project, as is the former executive director of Reboot, a network of sorts for Jewish innovators.

Paul B. Levitt, 73

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Paul B. Levitt passed away on Feb. 10 at Philip Hulitar Hospice center after a short illness.

He spent his life marching to his own drummer and for those of us lucky enough to join in, what a joy we had.

Paul is survived by his wife, Barbara Rosenbaum; daughters, Michelle Levitt-Savic (Steve) and Joanna Levitt; grandchildren Sebastian and Olivia; his siblings Richard Levitt (Jo), James Levitt (Cathy) and Myra Braverman (Jack); and his in-laws, Nancy Rosenbaum and Steven Rosenbaum (Sara).

In lieu of flowers or donations, please plant a plant in your garden on behalf of Paul.

Sanford 'Sandy' Perler, 74

CRANSTON, R.I. – Sanford "Sandy" Perler, died Feb. 13 at Miriam Hospital. He was the beloved husband of the late Bonnie (Berger) Perler. Born in Providence, a son of Ruth (Kaufman) Perler, of Warwick, and the late Samuel Perler, he was a lifelong resident of Cranston. He was the owner of Ocean State Label and Tag Co. for 20 years, retiring several years ago. He previously worked as an accountant for several local companies.

He was a graduate of Bryant College, Class of '64. He was a member of Touro Fraternal Association, active with the Jewish Seniors Agency, past President of the Residence Board at Shalom Apartments, and a board member of Camp JORI.

He was the devoted father of Gary Perler and his wife Loren of Mountain Lakes, N.J., and Amy Strom and her husband Anders of Sharon, Mass. Dear brother of Helene (Lawrence) Freed of Worcester, Mass. Loving grandfather of Jed, Libby, Sam, Ruby, and Olivia.

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

Sol Schwartzman, 89

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Sol Schwartzman, retired professor of mathematics at the University of Rhode Island and resident of Laurelmead in Providence, died peacefully in his sleep at home on Jan. 30 after a recent diagnosis of lung cancer.

Beloved brother, uncle and friend, Sol was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., son of Mary (née Lerner) and Jack Schwartzman. He was predeceased by his brother Borah Schwartzman and is survived by his brother Herman Schwartzman of New York City; his sister-in-law Alice Schwartzman of Long Island, N.Y., and Coconut Creek, Fla.; nephews and niece Michael, Danny, Allan and Amy Schwartzman; their spouses, children and grandchildren; and step-niece and nephew Lauren Ostrow and Howard Schell; and Lauren's children.

Please send donations in his memory to the Lung Cancer Alliance or other lung cancer charity of your choice.

Herbert Singer, 88

PAWTUCKET, R.I. – Herbert Singer died suddenly on Feb. 7 at home. He was the beloved husband of the late Marcia (Alpert) Singer and former husband of Jacqueline (Sorgman) Singer. Born in Boston, Mass., a son of the late Lawrence and Rose (Karp) Singer, he had lived in Pawtucket for two years, previously residing in Cranston and Warwick.

Herb was the owner of Hillhouse Ltd. in Providence for 43 years, retiring 19 years ago. He was a past president of Temple Am David, a member of Touro Fraternal Association, and a board member of the Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association. He was a volunteer for the Kosher Meals on Wheels program. Herb graduated from Colby College, Class of '49.

Devoted father of Mark Singer of Denton, Texas; Charles Singer and his wife Jan of Natick, Mass.; and Betsy Singer Cable and her husband Rob of Pawtucket. Dear brother of the late Ernest and Robert Singer. Loving grandfather of Halle, Jack, Lucas, Jonathan, Andrew, Dylan, Jacob, Anna and Adam. Cherished great-grandfather of Tammah.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Kosher Meals on Wheels, c/o Jewish Family Services, 959 N Main St, Providence, R.I. 02904 or American Heart Association, 1 State Street, #200, Providence, R.I. 02908.

Former UN chief Boutros Boutros-Ghali, key to Camp David peace deal, dies at 93

JTA – Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the former United Nations secretary-general who as a member of the Egyptian Cabinet was key to achieving the Camp David peace accords, has died.

Boutros-Ghali died Feb. 16 in a Cairo hospital, where he had been admitted for a broken pelvis. His death was announced at the start of a U.N. Security Council session as the council members stood in silence in his memory.

He was the first Arab to serve as U.N. chief, serving one five-year term that began in 1992. The 1994 massacre in Rwanda and the Yugoslav wars including the 1995 Serb slaughter, occurred during his tenure as U.N. chief.

Boutros-Ghali was the only U.N. chief to serve just one term; the United States vetoed his



renewal.

In 1977, when Egypt's foreign minister resigned in protest of Prime Minister Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and the possibility of normalizing relations with Israel, Sadat named Boutros-Ghali acting foreign minister and minister of state for foreign affairs, though he had never held public office. In those positions, Boutros-Ghali played a pivotal role in negotiating the peace treaty signed between Israel and Egypt in March 1979, which also returned the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt, a key Sadat goal.

Israel's government saw Boutros-Ghali as an ally in reaching the 1978 Camp David Accords. He was key in backing Sadat's determination to forge the peace deal, even in the face of the hostility of other Arab nations.

Boutros-Ghali had argued unsuccessfully during the negotiations for a Palestinian state and a withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to The New York Times.

Boutros-Ghali was born into a prominent Egyptian Christian political family and worked in many academic positions before beginning his political life. He was married to a Jewish woman from Alexandria, Leia Nadler.

At U.N. headquarters in New York, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon hailed his predecessor as a respected statesman who brought "formidable experience and intellectual power to the task of piloting the United Nations through one of the most tumultuous and challenging periods in its history."

"As secretary-general, he presided over a dramatic rise in U.N. peacekeeping," Ban said. "He also presided over a time when the world increasingly turned to the United Nations for solutions to its problems, in the immediate aftermath of the Cold War."

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Mom's creativity didn't condone tobacco



SKETCHBOOK

MIKE FINK

I like to fight back against the health-food and exercise addicts. "My father," I claim, "prescribed salt – a pile, a pillar, of it against infection, a cigarette as a cure for a cold, and a shot of Four Roses as a pick-me-up for low spirits." He wouldn't let me exercise, it might drain my energies better spent over the books.

But this illustrated tale is about the value of tobacco in the life of a young man on the road of life.

As you might know, the pipe is the symbol of the contemplative, the thoughtful, life. A cigar can guarantee prosperity in business, an aid to making deals after careful consideration. A cigarette, in a fancy holder, can tilt upward, like that of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, toward a political life of ambition and hope for victory, in the ballot boxes and on the battlefields.

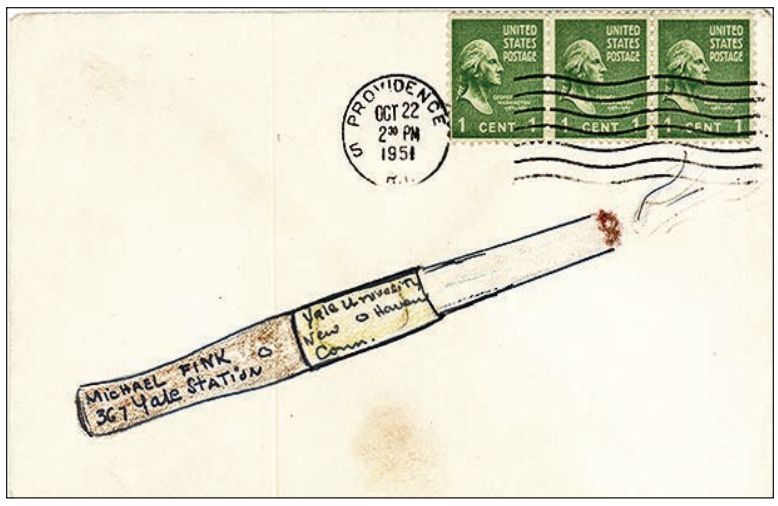
Now my mother, I mean our mother, didn't puff on the poisons of the weed, but she didn't disapprove. If you were going to smoke, she was going to go along and support her troops: her three sons. She gave the first-born a Sherlock Holmes-style pipe, plus a little green plaster model of a wingchair to set the pipe on until next twilight time. (We were in the furniture business in those long-gone days.)

Second son liked to go first-class among his boyish pleasures and hobbies. He smoked Camels, as did our Dad. The pack bore a fine illustration of the desert beast of burden and those ornate columns at the corners. Maybe a smoke was a visit to the Holy Land.

I was the baby among the boys, and when I left town for spiritual existence, and for the development of your mind for its own sake. That's how you clench the stem of a pipe or clutch the polished wooden bowl within your palm.

When the eldest lad married, I didn't take out my pipe at the bar at the bachelor dinner. No, I un-did the wrapping, put on the pretty paper ring, cut, (or bit off) the chewing end and lit up a proper and pompous cigar! That was to wish success and expansion upon the forthcoming future for my brother.







the blue and white of Yale, our talented mother wrote me letters and penny postcards decorated on the front (address side) with charming illustrations and decorations. I offer them here for your amusement. Now, a liberal arts education doesn't guarantee you a skill, a profession, a job, or a vocation. It exists both for your leisurely, for inhalation, well, it didn't mean I SHOULD smoke. It meant, rather, if you DO smoke, here's a *l'chaim* of good cheer.

When my lovely and whimsical mom drew a cigarette, it was to bless my ambitions, whatever they might turn out to be. When she gave me the ivory-white porcelain pipe, symbol of Yale, along with a tin of Brigg's tobacco (motto: "when a feller needs a friend") as well as a plaid pouch to store whatever I might stuff into my instrument

Nothing really works once you move on from your childhood, your boyhood or girlhood. You do the best you can and hope for the best. You try to please your parents, but you have to take what the fates have in store for you.

I spent a long afternoon hunting for these envelopes and postcards. I made a mess of the house in the process. But, voila! I succeeded in recovering what are treasures for me. I wasn't moved either to tears or to smiles. Only to a vast admiration for my mother's innate creativity and good humor, plus her worrying about what would become of us. What DID? And what WILL, yet?

MIKE FINK (mfink33@aol.com) teaches at the Rhode Island School of Design.

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Cranston Seniors meeting March 2

Cranston Senior Guild will meet March 2 at 1 p.m. at Tamarisk Assisted Living, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. Christopher Carlow, owner of Natures Healing of Coventry will teach Tai Chi . Tai Chi can relieve stress, promote mental tranquility, improve posture, balance and physical fitness. The class is free.

After the class, the Cranston Senior Guild will have a short meeting followed by refreshments and a raffle. All men and women ages 55 years plus 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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My Fitness Journey: the search for wellness

Part one of a series

I wish I could tell you I have an aversion to exercise, but I don't.



KARA MARZIALI

I have an aversion to the word exercise. It conjures up unhealthy attempts to control my weight and destructive tendencies toward perfection.

For many years, exercise was a punishment – something I had to do in order to repent for any misgivings I had with food consumption over the weekend. Exercise was the price I had to pay for my ill-fated genetic makeup. I am just over 5-feet tall, shaped like a pear (I hate pears, by the way!) and I am most solid in my hips and thighs. All the exercise in the world will not transform me into Twiggy.

So perhaps you can understand my apprehension when Fran Ostendorf asked me to consider writing a column for the Jewish Voice about an eight-week Fitness Journey, with me as the sojourner!

Let's face it, who wants to read about my struggles with working out?

Dear readers, there seemed to be no need to subject you to that! That is, until I began speaking to several people – many of you who read this paper – about this very subject. And you assured me that it is an extremely relevant topic. In my anecdotal research, I discovered a few things on which most of us all agree:

- We don't know where to begin when it comes to mapping out a fitness routine.
- We feel insecure about some aspect of our bodies. (Thighs, buttocks and hips seem to be the self-loathing targets for most women.)
- We think exercise is boring.
- We claim we do not have the time.
- We simply don't want to bother.

I work for the Jewish Alliance so I am familiar with the amenities and offerings at the Dwares JCC. In order to be objective about this journey, I thought it best to investigate other popular fitness centers. I first wandered into a local franchise that promised me a "judgment–free zone." While the membership fee to join was very reasonable and the members looked as "ordinary" as I did, the suggested workout routine seemed rather unstructured. All the staff wore yellow "Trainer" T-shirts, and the perky 20-something who gave me a tour assured me "There are lots of trainers here who can help you get started."

"But you won't actually be my trainer?" I asked.

"We believe how you work out is totally up to you; you go at your own pace."

Now this may work for some, but I need someone who understands my fitness struggles and would encourage me to keep going when I don't want to. Left on my own, I know my pace would be infrequent at best.

Next, I made my way to a swanky new fitness center that boasts a pool, sauna, state-of-the-art equipment and expert trainers. The moment I entered, I was overwhelmed. Like a magpie fascinated with shiny objects, I was dazzled with the polished, glossy appearance of the facility. Sure it was beautiful, but as soon as I was ushered to the "sales" team, I was ready to run for the door.



Eddie Fluery and I begin a Fitness Journey – it's a chance for me to get fit and overcome some deep-seated "gym-timidation."

No disrespect to the aforementioned fitness chains, but I cannot see myself in either of these two environments. I simply have to concede that the Fitness Center at the Dwares JCC was the best fit for me. (You may think I am biased, but this is the truth!)

When I was first introduced to Lisa Mongeau, founder of Body Soul Inspired Personal Training, and consultant to J-Fitness at the Dwares JCC, I was taken aback by the energy and enthusiasm bundled in such a pint-sized package. At only 4'11", she is actually larger than life – powerful, smart, enthusiastic and action-oriented. Her dynamism was contagious, and I actually wanted to swallow whatever Kool-Aid she drank.

At my initial consultation, I met with Lisa and Eddie Fleury, the Body Soul personal trainer who would be my coach for the next eight weeks.

"What are your fitness goals?" Lisa asked.

"Goals?" I echoed, then the silence was deafening. "To overcome my fear of public humiliation, I suppose. My fear of going to a gym stems from my self-esteem issues and inability to accept where I am today physically."

"No, really, what is your goal?" she repeated.

"Uh, at my age, I can only hope to maintain good bone health," I manage to say simply because I recall reading that in a magazine while waiting to check out during a recent trip to the grocery store.

She gave me a puzzled look.

"Honestly?" I took a deep breath. "I want to stop comparing my body to someone else's. I want to exercise because it's fun, not so I can punish myself or compete in a triathlon. My bikini days are over. I don't have to look a certain way by the time summer arrives. My only goal is to take care of my body and accept myself along the way."

Both Lisa and Eddie nodded and smiled.

"Oh, and if I am going to write about this, I hope to inspire someone else to take the same responsible risks I am willing to take in order to get healthy mentally and physically."

A tall order but they were up for the challenge.

So here I am: vulnerable, flabby and – dare I say? – middle-aged, embarking on a "fitness journey" (whatever that means), and I will share my trek with you over the next several weeks. Come along for the ride!

KARA MARZIALI is the director of communications for the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.



Using a resistance band provides just enough tension to increase the strength of my muscles. I like it because it fits neatly in my pocket when I am done!

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PUERTO VALLARTA – Adrienne and Steve Kirschner of Pawtucket vacationed recently in Mexico. Here they are at the port of Puerto Vallarta.



Members of Temple Beth-El's mission to Cuba

MISSION PARTICIPANTS, below, gather at the Patronato, the oldest, largest synagogue in Havana. Thanks for remembering The Voice!



MAZAL TOV

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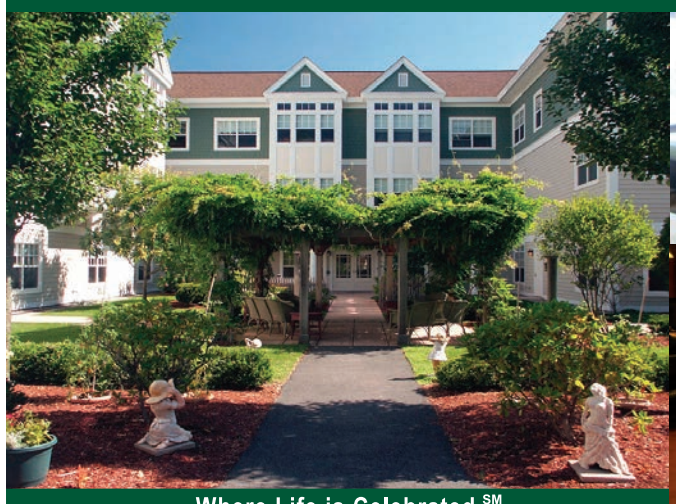
Gap-year experience

Eve Stein, of Providence, above (top), is working at a daycare center in Tel Aviv that serves refugees as part of her gap-year experience with BINA. Stein's participation is made possible, in part, by her Gift of Israel fund.

BINA: Social Action and Study in Tel Aviv is a gap-year program for Jewish high school graduates ages 18-19, offering a unique opportunity to experience real life with Israeli young adults in Tel Aviv. Participants engage in meaningful social action in the community in which they live, and explore the Jewish bookshelf from a pluralistic and progressive perspective. Participants are part of BINA's community of young adults from Israel and around the world who wish to experience significant learning and devote themselves to social change. Upcoming program dates: 5-month program from August 2016 to February 2017 and 10-month program (second semester full-Hebrew immersion) from August 2016 to June 2017.

For more information about Gift of Israel, contact Jana Brenman at 401-421-4111, ext. 181 or jbrenman@jewishallianceri.org.

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