the JEWISH VOICE

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FINANCE | PHILANTHROPY

A gift to enhance the community that embraced them

BY FRAN OSTENDORF
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The Eides family has a special feeling for the Providence Jewish community. After all, this is the community that welcomed Mira and Alex and their children with open arms in the early 1970s, when they came here from the former Soviet Union, among the earliest families to move to Rhode Island during that period of emigration.

Now, the family is giving back with a gift to the Jewish Alliance's Dwares JCC. And in

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PHOTO | EIDES FAMILY

The Eides family, left to right, Alex, Mira, Susan and Michael.



PHOTO | DAVID DELPOIO

Natan Sharansky and Michael Douglas discuss their "Jewish Journeys" at an event on Jan. 28 at Brown University.

An activist and an actor find common ground in their Judaism

BY FRAN OSTENDORF
fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org

PROVIDENCE – Natan Sharansky and Michael Douglas brought stories of their Jewish journeys to Brown University the evening of Jan. 28. Speaking before a packed auditorium at the Salomon Center for Teaching, the renowned Russian activist, who now heads the Jewish Agency for Israel, and the award-winning American actor shared common experiences from widely divergent backgrounds.

The program, designed to

JOURNEY | 10

Western Wall prayer fight ends with historic compromise

BY BEN SALES

TEL AVIV (JTA) – On Jan. 31 Israel's government approved a compromise to expand the non-Orthodox Jewish prayer section of the Western Wall, putting to rest the decades-long fight between Women of the Wall and Israel's haredi Orthodox religious establishment.

The deal achieves what had been an elusive goal: an interdenominational consensus on Judaism's holiest site with official recognition. The non-Orthodox prayer section at the wall will become much larger and more accessible. But haredi control of the Orthodox section will also be solidified, though non-Orthodox leaders have long protested that monopoly.

The deal, a copy of which JTA obtained ahead of the Cabinet vote, still contains a few unknowns. It is unclear how long construction will take. It does not say whether clear signage will direct visitors to the non-Orthodox section. Nor does it say exactly when Women of the Wall, an embattled women's prayer group, will move its monthly services from the Orthodox Jewish main prayer section to the non-Orthodox one.

Still, the Conservative and Reform movements can declare victory. The size of the non-Orthodox section of the Western Wall will double to nearly 10,000 square feet – half the size of the Orthodox main section just to its north. A committee of non-Orthodox leaders and government officials will manage the non-Orthodox section. And a single entrance will lead to both sections.

The Western Wall's haredi Orthodox management, called the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, also safeguarded its interests. Non-Orthodox leaders had campaigned for a

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Women of the Wall celebrate as prayer fight ends.



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THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE

"No hurried email ... can replace thoughtful, caring and intelligent written correspondence."



Attendees at the program at the Dwares Jewish Community Center

PHOTOS | MARTY COOPER

Dignity and respect for Rhode Island's homeless

Donna "Dee Dee" Williams, of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Homelessness, spoke to an estimated 75 people on Jan. 26 at the Dwares Jewish Community Center about caring for people who are homeless while treating them with dignity and respect.

The program attendees included first responders, who welcome and greet people, as well as representatives from social services agencies.

The event was sponsored by the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.



Donna "Dee Dee" Williams

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

BOOK REVIEW

A 'Uniquely Human' look at autism

BY TOBY W. LIEBOWITZ



It was a pleasure to read Barry Prizant's new book, "Uniquely Human," published by Simon and Schuster (2015).

In his book, Prizant, of Cranston, reflects on the knowledge he has gained from his many years as a clinical scholar, consultant, researcher and program consultant in the world of autism.

I know Prizant professionally and am proud to say he is a friend of mine. It came as no surprise to discover that his book is full of compassion and practical advice.

I have always been impressed by Prizant's family-centered, gentle approach with autistic people: he promotes collaboration with families as well as with professionals. His method is to share his knowledge by giving examples from his work to illustrate various aspects of life and work in the autistic world.

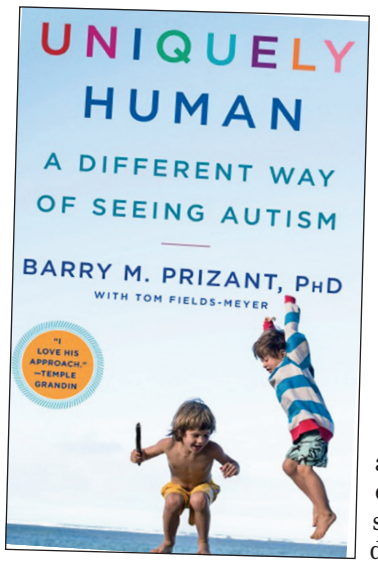
Prizant quotes many of his colleagues throughout his book. Some of the people he has learned the most from are on the autism spectrum and speak from personal knowledge.

Prizant's major contributions to the study of autism have been through his writings about the concept of "dysregulation." He describes some characteristics that have come to be considered "autistic behaviors," which he calls "coping strategies." He further explains that even those of us not on the autism spectrum use many kinds of coping strategies to deal with stressful situations, but we are also able to regulate ourselves and respond to difficult situations in a more socially acceptable way.

Obsessions, which are common with people on the autism spectrum, are described as "enthusiasms" – which certainly paints a more optimistic picture of those folks with deep interests and talents.

One of my favorite parts of "Uniquely Human" was when Prizant related a parent's description of the type of person who works best with his child. That person is an "IT" person: Someone who "gets it," someone who understands the needs of one particular autistic person.

There is no cookie-cutter approach to helping the autistic, just as there is no cookie-cutter description of an autistic person. The best person to work with an autistic individual doesn't necessarily need to have a lot of training at first, he just needs to see the autistic person for who he or she is, and feel compassion and understand his or her "uniqueness."



We have all seen professionals with doctorates in the field who believe in stern consequences for "behaviors" rather than listening and observing – these people should read Prizant's book.

Prizant quoted Michael John Carley, an adult with Asperger's syndrome, on what he needs to feel regulated. Carley said, "The opposite of anxiety isn't calm, it's trust." Those who deal with autistic persons must learn to create a warm and trusting environment, but must first learn from each autistic person what that entails.

Prizant was very helpful to Temple Emanu-El, in Providence, where he is a member, when he joined a small committee of parents and professionals who set up a monthly Shabbat morning service for a few families who were seeking a safe and trusting environment for their children with exceptional needs. These families wanted a place where anyone could get up and move about, where singing and swaying were encouraged, and where no one minded someone suddenly leaving the room or shouting.

Prizant helped the temple establish a warm and sensory-friendly environment where people with special needs, and even those without them, feel welcomed and comfortable.

"Uniquely Human" gives wonderful and empowering – yet practical – information and advice. Even though Prizant reminds readers that there is no magic cure and no "one method" that fits all, he still provides enough guidelines to be extremely helpful.

Families, educators, therapists, clergy and those who have an interest in the world of autism should read this book. Indeed, Prizant's approach of listening, observing and asking "why" can work with all people, because, after all, we are all uniquely human.

TOBY W. LIEBOWITZ is a special educator and former co-director of the Asperger Association of New England, Rhode Island Chapter.

"Autism Today - A Conversation with Barry Prizant and Stephen Shore" will take place Feb. 28 at 10 a.m. at the Dwares JCC. These two internationally-recognized experts on autism will appear as part of Jewish Disabilities Awareness and Inclusion Month. A light breakfast will be served.

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JDC's Jewish renewal bolsters Jewish life in Poland

BY HILLARY SCHULMAN
hschulman@jewishallianceri.org

Last of three in a series

Most of us are familiar with the model of Jewish Community Centers in the United States. There's usually a fitness center, after-school programs, a preschool, Jewish programming for people of all ages, and ways for members to connect and invest in their Jewish community. We have one in our own community – the Jewish Alliance's Dwares JCC, in Providence.

What most people don't know is that there are Jewish Community Centers overseas as well, including one in Warsaw, the capital of Poland.

Before World War II, Poland was home to the largest Jewish community in the world, 3.3 million Jews. During the Holocaust, the Nazis decimated nearly that entire population, ravaging a historic and grand Jewish civilization with synagogues, schools, theaters, youth groups, hospitals, summer camps, Zionist clubs, rabbinic dynasties, artists, writers, doctors and many others.

Today, in a miraculous revival, Poland boasts an estimated 25,000 Jews who are embracing their identity, and thriving, despite their tragic history. This is mostly because of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).

Overseas, the JDC not only helps to ensure the well-being of impoverished elderly and other vulnerable Jews, it also works with Polish Jews, and tens of thousands of other Jews in Europe and the former Soviet Union, to help them reconnect to Judaism on their own terms, create innovative spaces to express their Jewish identity, and secure their future together across the vast spectrum of religious denominations in a pluralistic spirit.

In 2013, the JDC helped launch the Jewish Community Center in Warsaw, which has helped bolster the revitalization of Jewish life in Poland. The JCC welcomes more than 300 Jews every week to take advantage of all the programming it has to offer. There is community and holiday programming, educational opportunities for adults, Sunday school, kindergartens and activities for youth. In addition, the JCC offers summer and winter camping experiences.

One of the bigger Jewish summer camps in Poland, the JDC-supported ATID Summer Camp, draws 100 participants, including 30 teens, for 10 days of workshops, singing, art activities, Jewish dance and cultural classes. Additionally, Polish Jewish teens also travel and take part in the JDC/Lauder International Jewish Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary, a creative, informal Jewish educational environment that combines Jewish activities with recreation and camping. For many, the camp is their introduction to Shabbat and Jewish holidays.

Additionally, the Polish Jewish community's largest event for nearly the past decade, Limmud Keshet, offers 100 workshops, lectures and discussions for over 700 participants, enhancing the Jewish communal spirit in the country for Jews of all ages, affiliated and unaffiliated. This year, Limmud Keshet — founded and supported by JDC — will take place in March. The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island is a proud co-sponsor of this impactful program.

The JCC is also important in developing Jewish leaders in Poland. The center offers training programs for Jewish community leaders, like Madrich Training, a series of seminars that teach leadership skills to youth counselors and help increase their overall knowledge of Judaism and Jewish life among young adults. There is also the Hanukkah caravan, which sends young Jewish leaders around Poland to present Jewish educational programs in communities that have limited access to Jewish programming.

Polish Jews have seen how the revitalization of their Jewish heritage has impacted their youth. One of their emerging leaders, "Michael," has been able to take advantage of all the JCC has to offer. First he was a camper at the ATID Jewish Summer Camp, and now is a participant in the leadership training program, as well as a camp counselor. He also volunteers in Warsaw's Boker Tov program, where dozens of community members enjoy a brunch together every week; the Urban Roof Gardening project, which supplies some of the vegetables for those brunches; and Israel Day at the JCC. He is also heavily involved with Children's Day, a family fun fair sponsored by the JCC in Warsaw and the Jewish community.

The hope is that Michael will be an inspiration for younger Jews, like 13-year-old "Teo," who said on his return from ATID summer camp, "This was my first time at ATID … I learned many Jewish prayers and I also learned about Jewish leaders."

You have made, and can continue to make, a difference in the lives of young Jews like Michael and Teo. Your donation to the Annual Campaign will help Polish Jews get back in touch with their Jewish roots and strengthen the global Jewish community.

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



PHOTOS | JDC

Volunteers from the Limmud Keshet conference in 2014.



Children making menorahs as part of the Moadon Hanukkah event at the JCC in Warsaw.



Michael from Poland enjoys a meal with other Jews in Warsaw.

the JEWISH VOICE

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Ocean State Theatre role a change of pace for Shakespearean actor

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

Some people say that you must leave the comforts of home to find yourself. Sophia Blum, who left the East Side of Providence to study dramatic arts and has since developed her theater skills in a variety of locations, recently returned to Rhode Island to play Angie Graziano, a mobster's daughter, in Ocean State Theatre's presentation of the Broadway comedy "Breaking Legs."

Blum, who is 24, first got into acting when she was 10, playing the youngest daughter in "Fiddler on the Roof" at Temple Emanu-El, in Providence. She took on a few smaller roles after that, but things really took off while she attended Classical High School, when she started taking classes at Trinity Repertory Company and met Fred Sullivan.

Sullivan, who is the director of "Breaking Legs," made an impression on Blum.

"I always was a big fan of Fred's. I wanted to work for him some day," Blum recalls.

Before getting the role in "Breaking Legs" though, Blum took off to study theater at northern New Jersey's Drew University. Her studies consisted mainly of generalized dramatic arts, but included a semester in England studying at the London Dramatic Academy. That is where, she said, she got the chance to really immerse herself in the theater scene and hone her acting skills.



Sophia Blum

"The theater scene is much more accessible," she said of London. "Tickets are cheaper. There's a bigger culture around going to see theater.

"It was an important time in my growing and learning and my love for theater."

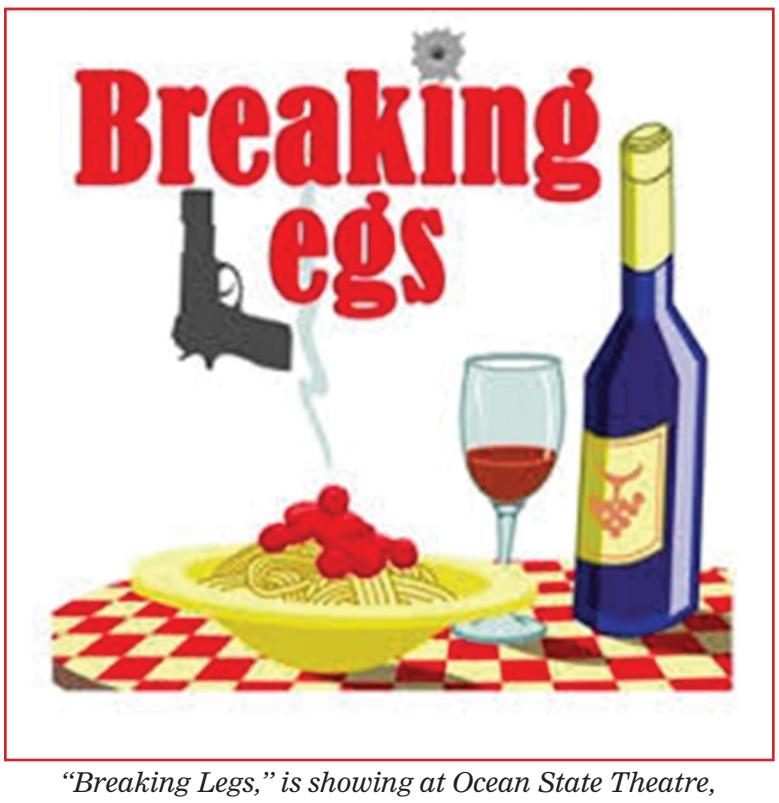
Blum, who identifies as a classically trained Shakespearean actor, said traveling to new places helps shape you both as an actor and as a person.

"The more interesting a person you are, the more interesting you are to watch," she said. "I think traveling is a huge part of that. I think traveling makes you more ready to understand different points of view that you might be representing on stage."

After finishing her studies, Blum took an apprenticeship in Shakespeare Theater New Jersey, one of the largest Shakespeare companies in North America. This, Blum said, is where she "got the acting boost" she needed and where she "fell in love with Shakespeare."

The apprenticeship led to a few positions in the upper ranks of the company, but eventually Blum went on to join a theater group called Hampstead Stage Company.

Hampstead has a somewhat unconventional method of performance: members pair off and drive to various cities over the course of several months, and the pair essentially becomes a two-person traveling theater company. Blum and her partner traveled from New Hampshire to Oregon, putting on plays for children and taking on all the roles in each play, in addition to all stage duties. Blum recalled one production where she played the two major roles, and her partner played eight minor roles. In her spare time, Blum explored the cities where they performed.



"Breaking Legs," is showing at Ocean State Theatre, in Warwick, through Feb. 14

After a six-month return to Stage Theater New Jersey as a part of its touring company, Blum moved to Brooklyn. Since then, she's been bouncing back and forth between New York and New England, depending on her gigs. For now, she has returned to Rhode Island to perform in a non-Shakespearean role. This, she said, was an intentional shift.

"I made a vow to myself that I would branch out. I love [Shakespeare], but it's not the only thing I want to do," she explains. "I want to do more comedy, TV, film and other things."

The novelty of this role and the associated challenges have Blum excited.

"I get to do an accent, which is fun! It's based in a much more naturalistic world … I'm not a fairy," she said, referring to her multiple roles in the past as Shakespearean fairies.

"The more knowledge of the world you have, the more interesting you are. It's just a no-brainer," she said.

"Breaking Legs," is showing at Ocean State Theatre, in Warwick, through Feb. 14. Tickets can be purchased at oceanstatetheatre.org/tickets/breaking-legs.

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

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Dwares JCC
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For more information contact Dan Hamel at 401.421.4111 ext. 105 or dhamel@jewishallianceri.org.

Temple Habonim rabbi to attend CCAR conference in Israel

Rabbi Andrew Klein of Temple Habonim in Barrington will attend the upcoming 127th Annual Convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), in both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Hundreds of Reform rabbis from around the world will join together February 23-28. The CCAR is the official rabbinic leadership organization of Reform Judaism.

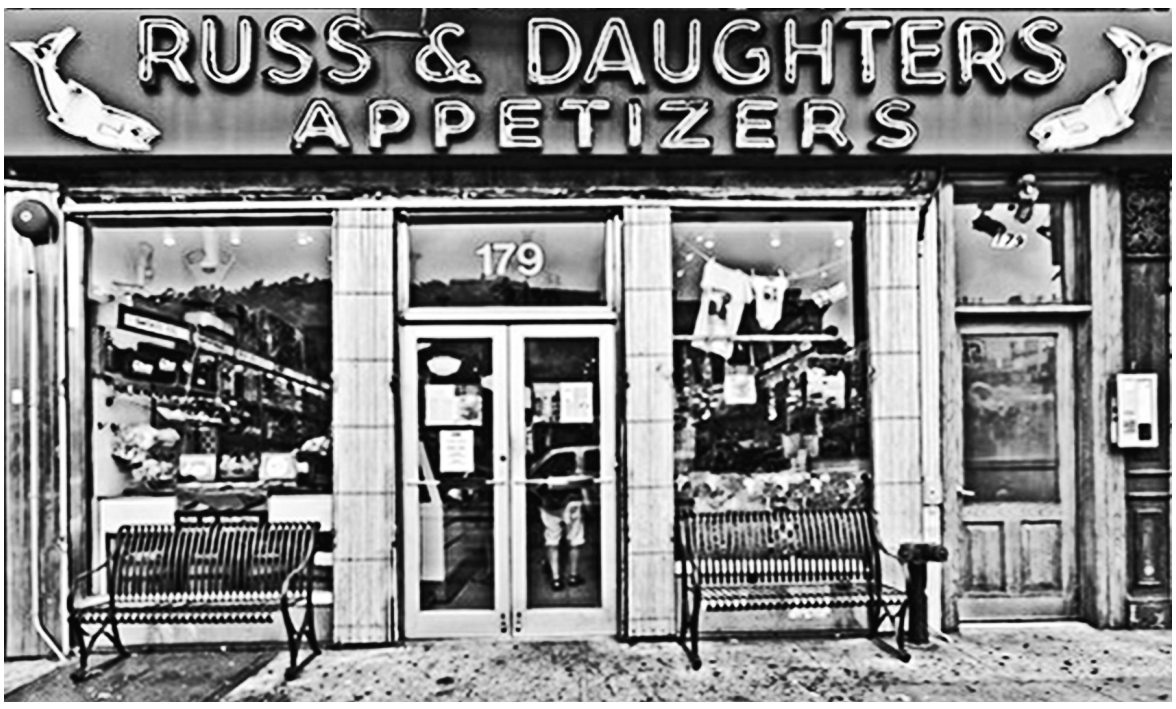
During Klein's time at the Convention in Israel, he will be meeting with Knesset members, as well as with Israel's President Reuven Rivlin. CCAR members will also have learning sessions, off-site visits and in-person meetings with Israeli thinkers, activists, politicians, artists and leaders. The rabbis will explore topics such as the status of minorities in Israel, hopes for the peace process, innovations of Start Up Israel, and human rights in Israel. There will also be in-depth study opportunities with major scholars like Rabbi Michael Marmur and Ruth Calderon, a *havdalah* concert with Kobi Oz, and Shabbat services at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art. Rabbis will also travel to the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel, where they will participate in a mini-conference on national Israeli policies.

"It's important for Reform rabbis to have a presence in Israel, to show that we are committed to an Israel that is based on our shared values of democracy, pluralism, peace and inclusivity," said Klein, "This valuable on-the-ground experience in Israel, including with Israeli leaders, will enable me to share the insights I gained with my community and deepen our ongoing learning and relationship with Israel."

CCAR rabbis will be participating in the Tel Aviv Marathon, half-marathon, 10k, and 5k. During their participation in this event, the rabbis will fundraise for Reform Judaism in Israel. Hundreds of Reform rabbis will run and walk side-by-side with community members in the Tel Aviv Marathon.

In addition, Klein will have the opportunity to take part in a March of Tolerance in Jerusalem, in support of the LGBT community in Israel. The march will take place at the site of the murder during the Jerusalem Pride Parade in 2015.

"What a powerful image it will be to see so many Reform rabbis come together in solidarity in Israel, walking or running together, demonstrating our connection to the people and country of Israel," said Rabbi Steve Fox, chief executive of CCAR, "The CCAR is proud of rabbis like Rabbi Klein and his community for their commitment to Reform Judaism in Israel."



Lower East Side icon Russ & Daughters expanding to Brooklyn

NEW YORK (JTA) – An iconic family-owned Jewish appetizing shop on Manhattan's Lower East Side is opening a second retail location, in Brooklyn.

Russ & Daughters, which has sold smoked fish and other Ashkenazi favorites from a small Houston Street shop since 1920, is opening a 14,000-square-feet store in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, the Bedford & Bowery blog reported Feb. 1.

In addition to the planned new retail location, which is expected to add 30 jobs and a new bakery, Russ & Daughters in 2014 opened a cafe on the Lower East Side and will be opening a second one in The Jewish Museum. The shop's former owner, Mark Russ Federman, published a cookbook in 2013 called "Russ & Daughters: Reflections and Recipes from the House that Herring Built."

The new store will be part of a new 60,000-square-foot food hall in the Brooklyn Navy Yard's Building 77, which is undergoing an $80 million renovation, according to Bedford & Bowery.

Russ & Daughters' expansion to Brooklyn comes a year after another iconic Lower East Side Jewish food establishment, Streit's Matzo Factory, sold its building in the gentrified neighborhood and moved operations to New Jersey.



It is not clear whether Russ & Daughters' new location will supplement or ultimately replace the Lower East Side shop.



FROM PAGE 1 | **GIFT**

honor of their gift, the J-Space after-school program will now be called the Eides Family J-Space. With the gift, the family wants to ensure that the community's teens have a place to go and activities to participate in, as did the young members of the Eides family while they were growing up in Providence.

"We are happy and proud to be making this gift to a special place and program that will touch many young lives in the future," said Susan Eides, Michael's wife.

The family is making the donation in honor of Michael's sister, Gita, who died at an early age.

Susan, Michael, and his mother, Mira, talked about choosing J-Space for their gift last week. They said Gita was a mentor and tutor to young teens, so the teen program was a good fit for honoring her – and something Michael said he'd wanted to do for a while.

Michael, Susan and their children Rachel, David and Gordon, as well as Michael's other sister, Ilana, have all participated in programs at the JCC.

Their donation was inspired by the generous gifts of Donald and Bonnie Dwares, who have taken the lead in fundraising for the current renovations to the JCC building.

"We'd like to be a catalyst for others to get involved at a younger age to see the gift [they make] flourish," Susan said, pointing out that gifts - no matter the size - are important.

Giving back is important to this family. The younger Eides all attended Moses Brown School, in Providence, where they were involved in community service. Rachel was awarded the Marc A. Dwares Community Service Award. David worked at Camp Eureka, on the Moses Brown campus, as a counselor helping children who were victims of domestic abuse. Gordon, who is named in memory of Gita, volunteers at Camp St. Ministries and Crossroads RI.

Michael and his father, Alex, own Ocean State Metals, a scrap metal recycling business in Providence.

FRAN OSTENDORF is the editor of The Jewish Voice.

An 'eye for an eye' affirms equality of all

Parashat Mishpatim

Just a week ago, I heard a TV news commentator discussing one of the presidential contenders' positions on a particular subject. He described the hardline posture as "Old Testament" strictness, as opposed to "New Testament" forbearance, as in "turning the other cheek." He explicitly referred to the passage in this week's Torah portion, Parashat *Mishpatim*, which calls for "an eye for an eye..."



RABBI WAYNE FRANKLIN

The fuller text says "if ... damage ensues, the penalty shall be life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise." While this commentator and many others cite this passage as evidence that Torah law is harsh, he actually misrepresents the Torah's message.

"When law is fair, everyone can feel protected, and everyone can feel invested in it. The Torah is an old teaching, but its wisdom still holds out lofty goals for us to achieve today and tomorrow."

This law in Exodus' "Covenant Code" is known in Latin as *lex taliones*, the law of retaliation. It tries to make punishments perfectly fit the crimes that were perpetrated. By contrast, in the ancient Code of Hammurabi, who ruled in Babylonia from 1728 to 1686 BCE, we find a law: "If a nobleman committed robbery and has been caught, that nobleman shall be put to death." Another law states: "If a woman wine seller, instead of receiving grain for the price of the drink, has received money by the large weight and so has made the value of the drink less than the value of the grain, they shall prove it against that wine seller and throw her into the water." Preventing the death penalty for economic crimes is one target of the "eye for an eye" law.

The Torah also affirms the fundamental equality of all human beings through this legislation. By stipulating the death penalty for killing a person, the Torah is making it clear that it considers all lives to be sacred; no life is more special than any other life. And though the rabbis did not strike the "life for life" passage from our portion or anywhere else in the Torah, they developed rules of testimony and adjudication that made the death penalty virtually impossible to administer.

The Torah's emphasis on equality is also evident in contrast to other laws in Hammurabi's code: "If a nobleman knocked out a tooth of a nobleman of his own rank, they shall knock out his tooth. If he knocked out a commoner's tooth, he shall pay one-third *mina* (an ancient weight) of silver." In other words, Babylonian justice depended on who you were, what your status was. The Torah's law makes no distinction among people; justice does not depend on status, wealth or connections.

While the Torah sounds like it demands physical punishment for physical injuries, the rabbis make it clear that monetary compensation for the damage is what is expected. The Torah even hints at this when it says "you shall pay," *v'natata*, in Hebrew. "

With the Jewish tradition's emphasis on equality for all before the law, it is essential that we moderns consider our own American system before impugning the Torah as harsh. Consider the reality that many more Americans of color have been incarcerated on drug charges than have white Americans. Consider that more poor people have been executed than people who could afford top-notch defense attorneys. The #BlackLivesMatter movement is but one effort which insists that everyone in America be treated the same way by our judicial system. Our country is struggling to address these issues; they are far from being resolved.

What some people see as harsh, "Old Testament" justice is actually an affirmation of the inherent equality of all human life, in law, not just in lip service. By insisting on appropriate justice, not vengeance or overreaction, and by insuring that the law is applied equally for everyone we affirm the Torah's compassion and mercy. When law is fair, everyone can feel protected, and everyone can feel invested in it. The Torah is an old teaching, but its wisdom still holds out lofty goals for us to achieve today and tomorrow, as we strive to create a "more perfect union."

WAYNE M. FRANKLIN is senior rabbi of Temple Emanu-El in Providence.

Conflict resolution and The 9 Adar Project

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

The Jewish Week of Constructive Conflict, organized by an Israel-based initiative called The 9 Adar Project, is fast approaching, and there is no shortage of ways to participate.

"The Jewish Week of Constructive Conflict is dedicated to increasing public awareness around the values and skills of constructive conflict as well as awareness of organizations that work to promote these values and skills year round. It is commemorated annually the week of the 9th of the Hebrew month of Adar which marks the day that two thousand years ago healthy disagreements 'for the sake of Heaven' turned destructive," according to 9 Adar's website.

These healthy-turned-destructive disagreements refer to an ideological warfare that broke out between two important schools of Jewish thought. Ideological turned to physical when some 3,000 students died, and the day was declared a fast day – though it was never truly observed.

However, the events of that day 2,000 years ago were only the beginning. Fast forward to 1992, when alternate dispute resolution tactics were incorporated into Israeli law on 9 Adar. Another 25 years passed, and in 2013 the Pardes Center for Judaism and Conflict Resolution declared the 9th of the Hebrew month of Adar the Jewish Day of Constructive Conflict. Its repeated appearance throughout history as a day of war and peace had made 9 Adar a significant day for the development of Jewish peacemaking; thus The 9 Adar Project was born.

According to its website, The 9 Adar Project "seeks to cultivate the culture of constructive conflict and healthy disagreement across personal, political and religious divides. The project does this through promoting public awareness around the annual Jewish Week of Constructive Conflict as well as facilitating institutional collaboration through the new 9 Adar Forum of conflict resolution organizations committed to cultivating such a culture within Israel and the Jewish world."

The 9 Adar Project is one of several programs developed by the Pardes Center for Judaism and Conflict Resolution, which is part of the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Israel.

On the 9 Adar website there are several different kits as well as information on their social media campaign that can help you facilitate ways to engage in constructive conflict. Check it out for further information on how your school, synagogue, organization, or even you as an individual can participate: 9adar.org.

Candle Lighting Times

Greater Rhode Island

Feb. 5	**4:46**
Feb. 12	**4:55**
Feb. 19	**5:03**
Feb. 26	**5:12**



Do unto others: The true mitzvah

My Nana Esther, my grandmother on my father's side, came to America from the old country, Russia, when she was a child. She was a small round woman with soft curves and a warm smile. She always wore a neat gray bun, had a beautiful face and she always looked perfect. She loved to tell me Russian folk tales while I was in her arms or nestled in bed.



PATRICIA RASKIN

She left me with indelible lessons about unconditional love and kindness, as well as the following story, which has stayed with me throughout my life.

I vividly remember the tale she told of the poor, hungry woman who knocks on the door of a stranger to plead for a piece of bread and a cup of water. The woman who lives in the house opens the door and turns the stranger away. After the "beggar" leaves, the woman who turned her away opens her mouth to speak and frogs come out of her mouth.

The beggar woman (who I always felt was an angel in disguise) moves on to the next house – where she is turned away again, this time by an angry man who slams the door in her face. When the man turns to his wife to report the incident, snakes fall out of his mouth.

The angel in beggar's clothing is sad and weary, but she walks to the next house. It is cold now, and getting dark. When she knocks, the door is answered by a woman with a warm smile. When she asks for bread, the woman invites her inside to sit at the table with her and her family. She offers her bread and water and a hot meal. The beggar woman stays a little while, but soon it is time for her to move on. She thanks the family for their kindness, and slips out the door. As soon as she is gone, the woman and her husband begin to talk, and gold and pearls fall out of their mouths.

Amazed, they open the door to rush after the woman. There is no trace of her, but the gold and pearls continue to appear – more than enough to repay them for the food they shared with their visitor.

That story and my own Nana's kindness and love are embedded in my brain and heart. When she spoke to me, it was as though gold and pearls came out of her mouth. My grandmother's message was clear: Perform *mitzvot* whenever you can. Be loving and kind-hearted. Treat people kindly. Speak pearls of wisdom and do kind deeds wherever you can because kindness comes back to you. Meanness and bitterness only bring more of the same.

PATRICIA RASKIN is an award-winning producer and host of "The Patricia Raskin Show" on Saturday at 4 p.m. on WPRO AM 630/99.7 FM. She is a board member at Temple Emanu-El.

Looking back, moving forward



EDITOR

FRAN OSTENDORF

We've spent a lot of time talking about the weather again. But this time, the topic centers on what a mild winter we've had so far.

One year ago, I was writing this column from my home office. The weather was awful; the snow piling up. A storm of historic proportions was predicted, though what we got was only a pretty bad blizzard. We ran a photo of the view from my window and everything was buried in snow. My next column also focused on the weather. It seemed to me that every Monday, there was some weather-related problem that made putting together The Voice a difficult proposition.

Fast-forward a year, and we've had one storm – about 4 to 8 inches of snow, depending on where you live. It's gone now except for the piles at the foot of a driveway or near the curb. Temperatures have been above 40 degrees most days and into the 50s on some days. On the day I'm writing this, we set a record high. And cherry trees on the East Side of Providence have already blossomed. What will they look like in the spring?

Winter in New England? What's that? The calendar says February but the weather certainly doesn't.

Not that I'm complaining. There are a lot of aches and pains in my household so shoveling doesn't come easily. And I don't even want to think about the mail box, hit by the plow last winter, nudged by a weaving car during the summer and now resting somewhat precariously on its post. It's a plow push away from ruin.

Last year, the snowy weather provided plenty of fodder for this column. This year, I'm getting the weather column out of the way now. I'm thinking positively and looking ahead to March and thoughts of spring. Obviously I'm not a skier. And there aren't any little ones in my house, looking for a good day of sledding and snowball fights.

If you also have thoughts of warm weather, are you traveling or spending some time in the warm weather? Don't forget to get out The Voice and snap a photo for the We Are Read section. We love to get those photos, and other readers like to see where you've been. And if you are hitting the slopes elsewhere, send us those photos too. At least I won't have to shovel that snow.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you!

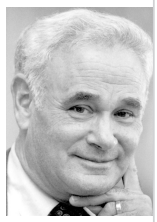
ERRATA

IN "FROM PUPPY LOVE TO WEDDED BLISS" (JAN. 22), the identification of Mark Bram at the end of the article should have read: Mark Bram is a rock musician, Grand Master of the Lee Wah Yook Qi Quan system of Internal Chinese Martial Arts and Sifu in the Yang Style Tai Chi Chuan and the owner of the martial arts school Internal Arts in Pawtucket.

IN "DELI MAN: OFFERS UP A DELICIOUS TASTE OF JEWISH AMERICAN HISTORY" (JAN. 22), a portion of two paragraphs near the end of the article were inadvertently cut off. Those two paragraphs should read: At 15, after the passing of his beloved grandfather, Gruber journeyed to London to acquire a formal education in classical culinary arts at the Cordon Bleu. After cooking for celebrities, heads of state and the queen of England, Gruber returned to New York, where, as he puts it, "my Uncle Seymour handed me keys to the restaurant and said, 'It's all yours, kid.'"

Today, Gruber runs the thriving Kenny and Ziggy's New York Delicatessen, in Houston. According to Anjou, in 1999, when the restaurant opened, 70 percent of Gruber's customers were Jewish. Today, Anjou says 70 percent aren't Jewish.

Diary of a young girl in the Lodz ghetto



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

The diary of Rywka Lipszyc (pronounced Rif-ka Lip-shitz) is a remarkable document not only for its content but for the fact that it has come to be published 70 years after its initial discovery. In the spring of 1945, Zinaida Berezovskaya, a Russian doctor accompanying the Soviet liberation forces, arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau, where she found the well-preserved diary near the ruins of Crematorium III.

The doctor kept the diary in her possession until her death in 1983. In 1995 Berezovskaya's granddaughter brought it to San Francisco, where she had emigrated four years earlier.

In 2014, the document was edited and published by San Francisco's Jewish Family and Children's Services, translated from Polish by Malgorzata Markoff with annotations by Ewa Wiatr. Last year HarperCollins republished it as "Rywka's Diary: The Writings of a Jewish Girl from the Lodz Ghetto, Found at Auschwitz in 1945 and Published Seventy Years Later." The HarperCollins edition includes historical and biographical essays and commentary.

Rywka Lipszyc was born on Sept. 15, 1929. During the six months that she was writing in her diary, she was a 14-year-old orphan living in the ghetto of Lodz, Poland, with her younger sister, Cipka, and three cousins, young women ranging in age from 17 to 20. In September 1942, the Nazis took her youngest sister, Tamarcia, and her brother Abramek to Chelmno, the death camp where they were both murdered.

We know that Rywka was shipped by cattle car to Auschwitz-Birkenau when the Lodz ghetto was liquidated in August 1944. She was sent from Auschwitz to Christianstadt, a women's hard labor camp. Then, as the war was drawing to a close, she was forced to march to Bergen-Belsen. After the British liberated Bergen-Belsen, they transferred Rywka, who was gravely ill at the time, to a hospital in Niendorf on the German coast of the Baltic Sea, 18 miles north of Lubeck. The last bit of documentation we have concerning Rywka is a notation on the Displaced Persons record indicating that she was transferred from Bergen-Belsen to the Niendorf hospital on July 25, 1945. After that, she vanishes without a trace.

Had it not been for the publication of her diary 70 years after its discovery, Rywka would have remained one of the nameless 6,000,000. The diary, written in the Lodz ghetto from Oct. 3, 1943, to April 12, 1944, has brought this young Orthodox Jewish girl back to life.

Rywka documents the hardships of living in the crowded slum-like ghetto, which the Nazis had sealed off from the outside world on April 30, 1940. The young girl details her daily suffering and the suffering of those around her: the torments of ever-increasing starvation, rampant disease, the brutality of their Nazi oppressors, and – worst of all – the continuing threat of deportation to one of the death camps.

Rywka sees the grinding poverty in the ghetto reducing its inhabitants to mere animals. In her diary entry on March 21, 1944, she gives voice to her outrage that people have been stealing food from her household: "Because of starvation in the ghetto people steal food from other people when they are working or when they aren't at home. ... When I thought that it (stealing other people's food) was murder – worse: a slow killing of somebody, making him die slowly – when I thought about it, I was so furious about 'him' or 'her' that if they had been at hand, I'd tear them to pieces. Animal instincts..."

Again and again, Rywka fights to preserve her sense of human dignity. She rebels against the Nazi's attempts to turn her into an inanimate machine, whose only task is to work or die. Feb. 7, 1944: "It hurts so much (for them we are not humans, just machines) ... But, I'm glad that I can 'feel' that it hurts because as long as it hurts, I'm a human being. I can feel..."

In addition to documenting her external surroundings, Rywka also pays close attention to her inner life, her wide swings in emotion, so typical of adolescents – even those who are fortunate enough to live in tranquil times within the protective embrace of loving families. On Nov. 24, 1943, she writes: "I'm sick of life ... Oh, dear God, when is it going to end? I don't want to live at all. I have but one thought, 'What a pity that Jews are not allowed to kill themselves.' "

Contrast such depth of despair with her buoyant exuberance on April 3, 1944: "Youth! Youth full of life. Something in me was calling. God ... I only know that I want to live! I want to live!!!"

As an Orthodox Jewish girl, Rywka is able to maintain some measure of emotional and spiritual balance in the face of overwhelming obstacles because of her firm faith in God. Feb. 2, 1944: "I love God so much! I can always and everywhere rely on God, but I have to help a little since nothing is going to happen by itself ..."

How does Rywka help herself a little? By turning to her diary. Jan. 7, 1944: "Oh, to write, to write, as long as I breathe / About everything, my diary." On more than one occasion Rywka addresses her diary as if she is a living person, who "must be feeling sad, because you have to absorb so many sorrows." (March 23, 1944).

It seems altogether fitting – and altogether ironic – that the last sentence of Rywka's diary, composed on Wednesday, April 12, 1944, is never completed: "For now, I'm glad about this turn of events, because I was born in 1927 (In fact, she was born in 1929), but actually ..."

What caused Rywka to stop writing in mid-sentence, when she had so much more to say? We will never know. Nor will we know what Rywka Lipszyc might have achieved had her life not been cut short – a life filled with youthful dreams that would never come true.

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

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 (300 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).

Reflections on the fine art of letter writing

BY MEL YOKEN

In the past few years, I've pored over volumes of letters of such diverse luminaries as Harry Truman, H.L. Mencken, Toulouse-Lautrec, Ernest Hemingway, Dorothy Parker, Robert Frost, Voltaire, E.B. White, George Bernard Shaw, Virginia Woolf, Edith Wharton, Henry James, Theodore Roosevelt and the veritable, indefatigable master of the genre, Madame de Sévigné. As a professor of French language and literature, and as a devotee par excellence of the written word, I have collected, perused and admired personal letters for some time.

Not all of us manage to live lives of such celebrity or notoriety that our letters are bound and published in volumes appropriate for libraries or gift giving. But letters are a wonderful solace and even a potent catharsis for anyone.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said that when his writing was blocked, he would write a long letter to a dear friend. John Steinbeck, in writing "East of Eden," extricated himself from the daily routine of writing books by composing a letter to his editor and close friend, Pascal Covici. These letters were in Steinbeck's words "a kind of arguing around for the story," but they also included valuable nuggets of information and fascinating comments and anecdotes for his friend about the events of the moment. Succinctly stated, epistolary literature is indeed a unique study and can't be valued enough.

Think about your child's first scribbled note, love letters exchanged with a spouse, sparkling missives we sent to our parents telling how much they meant to us, a note from a deceased friend, or simply your sons' and daughters' brief written requests for money from college, and the subsequent simple sincere "Thank You" jotted hastily on a piece of scrap paper.

There are other letters that I treasure in different, more private ways. These are the insightful, nostalgic letters written to me by longtime friends, former teachers, colleagues, and family members, a number of whom are deceased. Over the years, I've kept every one of those missives, and I treasure them more than ever. Rereading them is like having a good postprandial tête-à-tête with the individual, as they represent a definite connection from one human being to another. These letters have become relics from a day, age and era when life was simpler, easier and perhaps better!

Receiving a handwritten letter from a good friend is, for example, tantamount to receiving a long-waited Christmas or holiday gift. One never knows what unexpected treasures are inside, and there is a definite delight in just opening the envelope. As the celebrated writer, Geraldine Brooks, once said: "Letters formed a kind of road map of my life." My distinguished late friend and colleague, Dr. Richard Ward, once told me the uniqueness of letters "yield a resource that is of eternal value."

With email, faxes and the cellphone so ubiquitous, it is obvious that people don't seem – or want – to write any letters today. Yet no hurried email or telephone conversation can replace thoughtful, caring and intelligent written correspondence between two human beings. Spoken words grow dim with time; written words last forever. Letters are truly literary monuments, which show deep penetrating feelings, emotions and character. They delineate how people felt, lived and acted; they celebrate friendships, love affairs, admirations, turmoils and heartbreaks.

Once upon a time, the only way to communicate from a distance was through the written word. Letters were essential then. And what about history? Most of our knowledge of people and events is based on epistolary communication. Think of Harry Truman's letters to Bess, Henry VIII's to Anne Boleyn, Napoleon's to Josephine, John Keats's to Fanny Brawne, Madame de Sévigné's letters to her daughter, and F. Scott Fitzgerald's to his daughter.

I could not have delved into the creative mind and perused the brilliant cogitations of John Steinbeck, had he telephoned Covici. The letter writer par excellence, George Bernard Shaw, took great pride in delineating his thoughts via a missive. What if he had decided to telephone his friends and acquaintances instead of engaging in a civilized and enlightening exchange of letters?

A number of my students have told me, however, that they are derelict about writing letters, due to the fact that they expect themselves to create a masterpiece each time. I tell them that the recipient usually doesn't give a tinker's damn about the perfection of a letter or its style; he or she is usually delighted that an authentic handwritten letter has finally arrived.

One of life's happy moments is hearing someone say: "There's some important mail for you today." Yes, letters are intended for keeps. They are for saving, rereading and rethinking. Many make the heart leap with laughter, jubilation and delectation. Forty-nine cents is indeed the quintessential bargain to keep in touch, and in such a permanent way, with a friend or relative or colleague who perhaps lives thousands of miles away. So reach out, find a pen and write to someone today. And, by the way, the United State Postal Service would greatly appreciate this, as post offices are essential to the vitality and livelihood of a community, no matter how small the community may be!

MEL B. YOKEN, Ph.D. is Chancellor Professor Emeritus of French Language and Literature at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth

For Jewish campaign staffers, a welcome respite at Iowa Shabbat dinner

BY JOSH TAPPER

DES MOINES, Iowa (JTA) – Some 50 presidential campaign staffers and volunteers, journalists and local movers and shakers from this capital city's Jewish community munched on house salads inside a stately ballroom at the downtown World Food Prize building on Friday night, Jan. 22, as Aliza Kline welcomed them to Shabbat dinner.

Around the room, local prosecutors sat next to Planned Parenthood activists in Iowa to support Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton. Organizers for Clinton's main challenger, Bernie Sanders, mingled with board members of the local federation.

It was an indubitably Democratic gathering, although at least one Republican – a 19-year-old Vassar College sophomore named Pieter Block who has been volunteering for the Jeb Bush campaign over winter break – braved attendance.

And yet there was a common denominator in the ballroom that Kline, the executive director of OneTable, a New York-based organization that helps Jews in their 20s and 30s organize Friday night meals, picked up on.

Everyone cares, Kline exclaimed, "and that makes me happy."

Founded in 2014 with support from a trio of Jewish nonprofits – the Steinhardt Foundation for Jewish Life, the Paul E. Singer Foundation, and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation – OneTable has facilitated 880 Shabbat dinners. Most have been in New York, but also in Chicago, Washington, D.C., San Francisco and Boulder, Colorado.

On the same day OneTable landed in Des Moines, dinners took place at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, and in Park City, Utah, at the Sundance Film Festival.

The initiative exhorts busy professionals to organize dinners not only to foster Jewish community but, more simply, for a much-needed change of pace – a manifesto that has particular resonance in Des Moines this time of year. With 10 days left before Iowans officially launch the presidential nomination process, statewide politicking, already clamorous in the lead-up to the Feb. 1 caucuses, only stands to intensify as campaigning draws to a close.

In a cheeky nod to campaign fatigue, OneTable organizers left gold-and-black sleep masks, inscribed "Sssshhhhabbat," at each place setting.

Lisa Gerlach, 21, a scheduling and advance assistant for the Sanders campaign, acknowledged that her job is not conducive to drawn-out meals, let alone those with three courses. So the dinner, she said afterward, was "definitely a good part of my week."

After Kline finished her address and guests finished their appetizers, they tucked into plates of maple-glazed salmon and sautéed asparagus followed by an assortment of desserts – rugelach, halvah and cookies – supplied by the city's lone kosher restaurant, Maccabee's.

Next to the eye masks were cue cards with nonpolitical conversation starters ("French fries or tater tots?"), though discussions inevitably shifted to news of the day: Clinton's planned address at the Jewish federation here, the merits of a national clean energy strategy and so on.

The dinner was a success, Gerlach said, because during an election, "you never really get to interact with people on the other side of the aisle in a very human way." Moreover, it is rare that people from across the political spectrum have the opportunity to sit down for dinner in a non-hostile environment.

On Friday, the discourse was notably civil, which is characteristic of Iowa in general, said Will Rogers, 46, the chairman of the Republican Party of Polk County and vice president of Tifereth Israel, the Conservative synagogue here.

"We don't attack one another and we don't beat each other up," Rogers said. "It's kind of like a big family rooting for different teams during the Super Bowl."

Building off momentum from Friday's dinner, OneTable's hope is that similar affairs will pop up around the country over the course of election season. A dinner has been scheduled for Feb. 5 in Manchester, New Hampshire, four days before the primary there.

"I'd love to see lots of primary Shabbats," said Kline, 44. "It's one more opportunity for people to get involved and to get together on a Friday night. So that feels very win-win for us."

With Sanders polling well beyond expectations in Iowa and New Hampshire, and reports that billionaire Michael Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York City, is mulling a late bid as an independent, the field of candidates could take on an unusually Jewish patina in the months ahead.

Would OneTable try to involve the campaigns in future dinners? Probably not, said one of the organizers, Seth Cohen, a senior director at the Schusterman Family Foundation. Better to stay above the fray.

"These dinners," Cohen added, "are about the people in the politics, not the politics themselves – or the politicians."

LETTER

Re: Immigration

In regard to the current debate over Syrian immigration to the United States, as we witness mass deportations of refugees from Sweden and destabilization in several European countries, it would be well to consider the teaching of Rabbi Moses Chaim Luzzatto, author of *Mesilas Yeshorim* (Path of the Upright), 1738:

Learn to differentiate between realistic fears and irrational fears. Similarly, differentiate between true trust in the Almighty and folly.

We have an obligation to guard ourselves from potential harm. Failure to behave in a wise manner and opening oneself to danger is not trust in God, but recklessness. Such a person is behaving contrary to the will of the Creator who wants us to guard ourselves from harm.

Howard Brown
North Kingstown

FROM PAGE 1

JOURNEY

bring a pro-Israel voice to several college campuses, attracted a crowd of Brown students and community members. Outside were about 20 protesters, who, at times, shouted "Free Palestine" so loudly that they made the conversation inside difficult to hear.

In what turned into a free-ranging conversation about their feelings about their Judaism, their backgrounds and current events in Israel, Douglas and Sharansky questioned one another on a wide range of topics. Despite their very different lives, the audience could see some common ground.

Douglas, whose father, Kirk, is Jewish, and mother, Diana, was Anglican, said he went through life being told he wasn't Jewish because his mother wasn't Jewish. He calls himself a secular Jew who really didn't think much about his Judaism until his son, Dylan, came to him with questions after spending time with friends who were preparing for bar mitzvahs. Dylan wanted to become a bar mitzvah, Douglas said, not for the presents but because it spoke to him.

"Dylan brought spirituality into our lives," he said. The entire family traveled to Israel to learn more. Now, Douglas said, "I'm just happy to be part of the tribe."

Douglas' story speaks to many who come from interfaith families and don't think much about their Judaism until a point in their lives when they have to examine who and what they are.

Sharansky, on the other hand, spoke of growing up in the former Soviet Union, where being Jewish meant you had to work harder and be the best. He may not have known about the religious side of Judaism, but he knew being a Jew made him different.

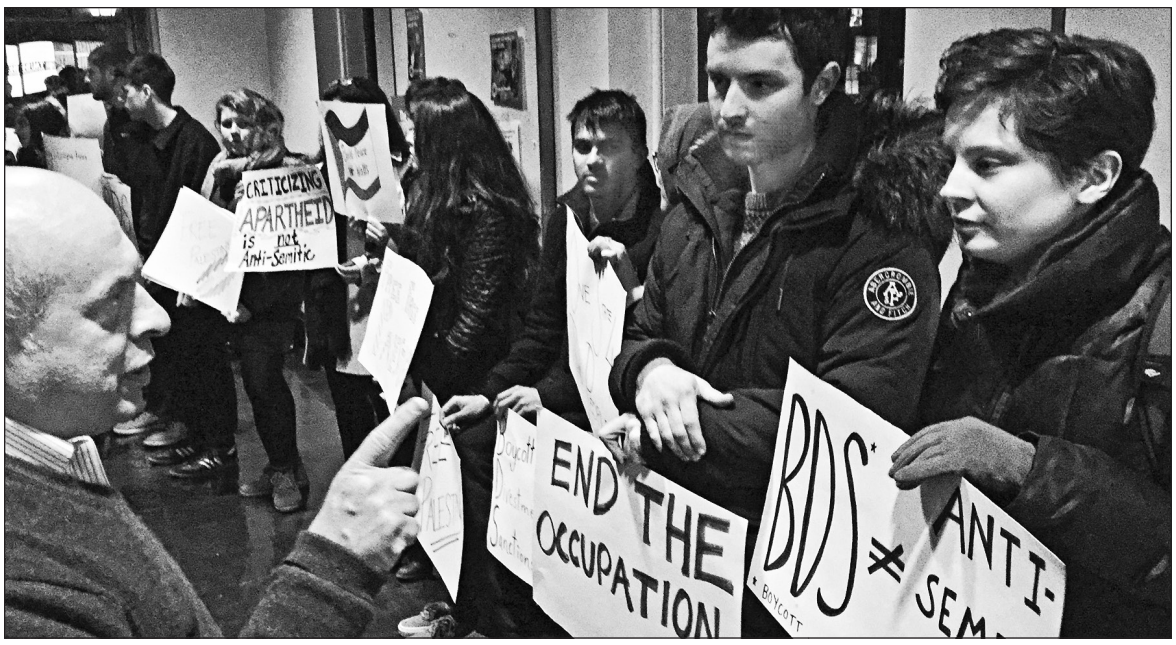
"We knew we were Jews," he said. "You must be the best. That's the way you survive." He talked about how his parents always wanted him to be number one. "I was number one in prison," he said, getting a loud laugh from the crowd.

Eventually, he became vocal enough about the rights of Soviet Jews that he was thrown in jail for his activism. His is a remarkable story of perseverance. Even his release from prison, 30 years ago this Feb. 11, was the result of continuous efforts by his wife and others around the world.

Douglas was awarded the 2015 Genesis Prize in recognition of his decades-long career as an actor and producer, his work as a peace activist and his unwavering support of Israel. Sharansky is chairman of the prize committee that chose Douglas. Douglas has expressed surprise at winning the award since his mother wasn't Jewish.

"This was cathartic," he said.

Though they don't agree on everything, Sharansky and Douglas' journeys intersect with their Judaism, and they share many interests, including support of Israel. You could tell that they liked and respected one another and their viewpoints from the easy, conversational tone of the evening.



COURTESY | GENESIS PRIZE FOUNDATION

Natan Sharansky attempts to speak to protesters outside of the auditorium

Some highlights from the Q and A:

Sharansky, who has served in the Israeli government as a member of the Knesset, said he approached the protesters outside the Salomon Center to talk. "They don't want to talk. They just wanted to shout at me," he said, adding that they weren't interested in anything but the destruction of Israel.

Several students in the audience asked questions about the Jewish Agency for Israel's support of settlements. Sharansky was adamant that JAFI does not support illegal settlements. "We are a unique agency," he said.

On less hot-button topics, the two were asked about advice for emerging leaders. Sharansky said, "Always remember from where you came. Life is a great thing." And then he offered some advice from his prison stay: "Nobody can humiliate you. Only you, by your own actions, can humiliate you."

Douglas offered, "Trust your first instinct. Then stop and analyze it."

Asked their mantra for living, Douglas answered, "Always think you gave it your best effort." Said Sharansky: "When you are riding the tiger, the most dangerous move is to stop."

When questioned about a legacy, Sharansky said, "You want to make the world a better place – *tikkun olam* – that is the source of power."

Douglas said, "My father just turned 99. He's been an inspiration in how he's lived his life. I hope that I will be able to maintain that level of commitment."

Douglas has dedicated his $1 million prize to supporting projects promoting the inclusion of intermarried families in Jewish life, including a project by Hillel International, one of the sponsors of this tour.

That project began in 2013 on the Brown campus as "Jews of Brown," the effort of Rebecca Carrol, an engagement intern at Brown RISD Hillel. The campaign features photographs of Brown students who identify as Jews along with quotes from each about the meaning of being Jewish. Carrol, who spoke before Sharansky and Douglas, graduated in 2015 and is now working on expanding the project for Hillel International. Called "Jews of the University," it is a social media effort to illustrate the diversity of Jews on college campuses.

Sharansky and Douglas also spoke at Stanford University and the University of California Santa Barbara.

FRAN OSTENDORF is the editor of The Jewish Voice.

FROM PAGE 1

WESTERN WALL

share of control of the Orthodox section of the wall, but the Heritage Foundation will retain full authority over it and the larger plaza behind the prayer sections. And when the plan is implemented, Women of the Wall will move to the non-Orthodox section, one of the Heritage Foundation's longstanding demands.

"They all came to the conclusion that they must make serious compromises because they want it to remain one Kotel for one people," Jewish Agency for Israel Chairman Natan Sharansky told JTA, using the Hebrew term for the site. "It's the place that must unite us more than anything else, and it turned into the most ugly war."

Plans for the non-Orthodox section's expansion, spearheaded by Sharansky, began in December 2012. In October of that year, police had arrested the Women of the Wall's chairwoman, Anat Hoffman, for wearing a *tallit* during the group's monthly service – an act that at the time was illegal at the site.

Talks on a plan to expand the non-Orthodox section of the wall, located in an archaeological park known as Robinson's Arch, began in April 2013. Sharansky and outgoing Israeli Cabinet secretary Avichai Mandelblit led the negotiations, which included representatives of the Reform and Conservative movements, the Heritage Foundation and Women of the Wall.

Nearly three years later, the deal enacted Jan. 31 calls for the creation of an "official and respected," 9,700-square foot prayer space in the non-Orthodox section of the Western Wall, running along a 31-foot segment of the wall, that Sharansky said will fit approximately 1,200 people. It will have a government-funded staff, Torah scrolls and other ritual objects, and be open to all forms of Jewish prayer. Sharansky estimated its construction could take up to two years.

After it is completed, the non-Orthodox section will remain smaller than its Orthodox counterpart. The Orthodox section measures some 21,500 square feet, adjacent to a nearly 200-foot segment of the wall, and has some 27,000 visitors on an average day.

A committee composed of two Reform leaders, two Conservative leaders, two non-Orthodox women representatives, the Jewish Agency chairman and six government officials will run the non-Orthodox section.

The Orthodox and non-Orthodox sections of the Western Wall will share an entrance near the Old City of Jerusalem's Dung Gate, one story above the Western Wall plaza's current entrance. Currently, the path to the non-Orthodox section is long, narrow and accessible only through a gateway tucked in a back corner of the plaza. The deal will create a wide and visible walkway to the section.

The deal does not specify, however, whether there will be signs at the entrance informing visitors of the non-Orthodox section or anything else notifying visitors of its existence.

"The vision of the new section of the Kotel is a physical and conceptual space open to all forms of Jewish prayer," a statement from Women of the Wall read. "Instead of splitting up the existing pie into ever more divided, smaller pieces, we are making the pie much larger and sharing the new space."

The Western Wall's haredi management, headed by Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz, has long pushed for Women of the Wall to leave the site. Under the deal, the women's group has agreed to move to the non-Orthodox section once the deal is implemented. And a faction of Women of the Wall has vowed not to budge from the Orthodox section – regardless of what the deal says.

The Western Wall's religious status has been under contention for decades. Women of the Wall was founded in 1988 to advance women's prayer at the site, which is prohibited under haredi Orthodox Jewish law. Until 2013, much of the group's activity contravened the Heritage Foundation's regulations and thus was illegal.

Non-Orthodox groups also suffered persecution at the site. In 1997, an egalitarian Conservative Shavuot celebration behind the prayer section was attacked by protesters throwing bottles and refuse at the worshippers. The incident led to the establishment of the non-Orthodox prayer section at Robinson's Arch in 2000.

Following an international backlash to Hoffman's 2012 arrest, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tasked Sharansky with forging a compromise solution to the dispute. An outline Sharansky proposed in April 2013 called for the non-Orthodox section to be equal in size and elevation to the Orthodox section, but it proved unworkable due to objections from the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Waqf, the Islamic body that governs the Temple Mount.

In August 2013, Diaspora Affairs Minister Naftali Bennett tried for an interim solution by building a 4,800 square-foot platform that created more space in the non-Orthodox section. Women of the Wall rejected the platform, calling it a "sundeck." Now the architects of the most recent compromise hope that all sides of the debate will be able to put their differences behind them for the sake of the Western Wall's symbolism.

"This contains the hope that the Western Wall will no longer be an arena for disputes, and will regain the uniting character that befits its special place for the entire Jewish people," the agreement reads. "May this also bring peace among us."

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.

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.

Monday | February 8

Lisa Raiola. 7 p.m. She will speak on her journey to nutrition as a pathway to survivorship and how she was healed from Stage 4 cancer. She will discuss basic dietary principles that anyone can apply to their own lives. Sponsored by Chabad RI Jewish Women's Organization. At the home of Michla Laufer. RSVP 917-531-0056.

TUESDAY | February 9

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Philmus. Noon. Join Torat Yisrael's Rabbi Philmus at T's Restaurant, 5600 Post Road, East Greenwich. Each participant orders from the menu and the group studies Jewish sources addressing current issues.

FRIDAY | February 12

Friday Night Live. Chocolate Shabbat. 6 p.m. A musical celebration of Shabbat followed by an Italian fish dinner and chocolate desserts. Adults, $20; children 12 and younger, free; family maximum, $60. Temple Torat Yisrael. 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. For more information and to RSVP, 401-885-6600.

Saturday | February 13

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

Monday | February 15

Jewish Alliance Town Hall Meeting. 7 p.m. Dwares JCC. The Jewish Alliance's Dwares JCC will be undergoing an extensive renovation. Starting in March, there will be updates to the façade, main entrance, front lobby, social hall and back courtyard. Come learn more about the upcoming renovations from the builders and architects. If you have any questions about the renovations, contact Dan Hamel at 401-421-4111, ext. 105 or dhamel@jewishallianceri.org.

Tuesday | February 16

PJ Library Story and Play Time with "Bubbie Sara." 3-4 p.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 also 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.

"Jewish Heroes and Jewish Heroism." 7:30 p.m. Dwares JCC. Rabbi Mordechai Becher, international scholar and lecturer on Jewish history and philosophy at Yeshiva University, will present. Sponsored by Kollel.

Above and Beyond: A Film Event. 7p.m. Swan Hall Auditorium, University of Rhode Island. "Above and Beyond" is the untold true story of the brave fighter pilots who elected to aid Israel in its War of Independence in 1948. Fueled by their need to correct the wrongdoings of Hitler during World War II, these Jewish American fighter pilots knew they must help the Jewish people to survive. This documentary follows the one-of-a-kind story of a young group of men fighting for what's right while having some fun along the way. 60 Upper College Road, Kingston. For more information, please contact Yaniv Havusha, URI Hillel, at yaniv_havusha@uri.edu.

Thursday | February 18

A Night at the Deli. Dinner 6 p.m.; Film 7:30 p.m. Dwares JCC. A fully catered "New York deli" style dinner from Ben's Best in Queens, New York and a special film screening of "Deli Man: The Movie" with special guest speakers: Eric Greenberg Anjou, producer & director of "Deli Man," and Jay Parker, 4th-generation owner of Ben's Best. Price (per person): $42; Members: $36. (Member pricing extends to Alliance Annual Campaign donors who give a household gift of $1,000 or more.) Price includes full dinner and admission to the film. For more information, contact Erin Moseley at 401-421-4111, ext. 108, or emoseley@jewishallianceri.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. and again at 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, parents and children join children's book author Jennifer Rosner as she reads from her new 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 friendly 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.

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. This event is 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.

Calendar Submissions

FEB. 19 issue, CAMP, must be received by FEB. 10.

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

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

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. Beginner or experienced all will enjoy Carlow.

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.

Reflections from the interfaith Israel mission

On Jan. 31, about 90 community members gathered at the Dwares JCC to hear participants in the Jewish Alliance's interfaith Israel mission speak about the trip.

Many of the 18 members of the mission participated in the program, which featured personal reflections on the trip and the State of Israel. Steve Klampkin, of WPRO, was the moderator.



PHOTOS | FRAN OSTENDORF



Schnitzel Strips tasty part of a party spread

BY DANIELLE ORON

(The Nosher via JTA) – Sports! I'm not really into them, but I absolutely love the Super Bowl. It's a time for snacks, chips, dips, beer and 12-foot subs. I'm usually the one hosting because I love creating a huge spread of finger foods. I set up a buffet in the kitchen and everyone grabs a plate, fills it up and goes to sit in the living room to watch the game. I find that it's so much easier to have finger foods for events like this so no one struggles to eat while sitting on the couch. No need for forks and knives!

These schnitzel strips have been part of my Super Bowl menu for a few years now and they're always the first thing to disappear. They are easy to make and can be kept warm in the oven while your football guests arrive and snack on the guacamole and chips you have waiting for them. But they're good for any party where you want tasty finger foods.

Note: there will likely be extra green tahini dip left over. You can store this in an airtight container in the fridge.



Schnitzel Strips with Green Tahini Dip

Schnitzel Strips with Green Tahini Dip

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

Ingredients

For the green tahini dip:

1 clove garlic
1/2 bunch parsley (about 1 cup)
1 1/2 - 2 tablespoons lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup tahini
1 1/4 - 1 1/2 cups water

For the schnitzel strips:

2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breast, sliced into 1-inch strips
1/2 cup flour
1 teaspoon mustard powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
3 eggs
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
3/4 cup breadcrumbs
3/4 cup panko
2 teaspoons sesame seeds (black, white or a combination of both)
1/2 teaspoon sweet Hungarian paprika
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
Canola oil for frying
Salt

Directions

To make the green tahini, place the garlic clove and parsley in a food processor and pulse until very finely chopped. Alternatively, you can chop them finely by hand.

In a large bowl, combine the garlic and parsley mixture with the lemon juice, salt, tahini and water. Whisk together well!

It will seize at first, but keep whisking! You may need more water depending on how thin or thick you want your tahini sauce. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt and lemon juice. Set aside.

Pre-heat the oven to 200 degrees to keep the schnitzel warm until ready to serve. Set up a cooling rack on top of a baking sheet.

• In three separate dishes combine the dredging mixes. In the first container, mix the flour, mustard powder, salt and pepper.

In the second, whisk together the eggs and Dijon mustard.

In the third, combine the breadcrumbs, panko, sesame seeds, paprika, garlic powder, salt and pepper.

• Heat 1/4 inch of oil in a large skillet over medium-low heat when you're ready to fry the schnitzel. It's recommended to do this in batches.

• Dredge the first batch of chicken strips in the flour mixture and shake off as much excess flour as possible before moving the strips to the egg mixture.

Allow excess egg to drip off the strips before moving them to the breadcrumb mixture.

Press the breadcrumbs into the strips well. Pressing will help the crumbs stick.

• Fry the strips for three minutes per side until they are golden brown and cooked through. Remove the strips onto the cooling rack and sprinkle with salt. Place the strips in the oven to keep warm while you fry up the rest. Add more oil to the pan between batches if needed.

Serve the strips with the green tahini on the side.

DANIELLE ORON is a chef, photographer and writer of the blog "I Will Not Eat Oysters," the owner of a milk & cookies bakery in Toronto and now a cookbook author. The Nosher food blog offers an array of new and classic Jewish recipes and food news, from Europe to Yemen, from challah to shakshuka and beyond. Check it out at TheNosher.com.

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

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

The Torah's dictate to "love your neighbor as yourself" has inspired Jews and non-Jews for millenia. 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."

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More information including session and speaker details coming soon.

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JV

Bone Soup lesson inspires students, benefits community

BY DORI ADLER

Inspired by the popular Jewish folk story, "Bone Button Borscht," by Aubrey Davis, Cohen School students worked as a school community on Jan. 17 and helped feed people who are hungry. In this story, a tired Jewish beggar looking for food and a warm place to sleep comes across a small, poor town. The locals are not very welcoming, as they are struggling financially themselves and do not want to assist him. He promises that he can make a delicious soup out of his coat's bone buttons. The townspeople are intrigued and are in disbelief that he can make this miracle come true. Without realizing it, they end up assisting him in making the soup by bringing him the needed ingredients while it's being prepared. Someone brings him a pot of water while others provide the vegetables and beets. A wonderful soup is prepared and shared. They all learn important lessons about collaboration, *hachnaset orchim* (welcoming guests) and that all people deserve *kavod* (respect) regardless of their appearance.

Recognizing the power and strength that a community working together can have, the students wanted to make their own version of "Bone Soup." While honoring the mitzvah of *ma'achil re'evim* (feeding the hungry), the students began this important project by bringing in the ingredients. Each class was assigned a specific ingredient. Without everyone providing their items, the soup could not be prepared. Some families brought in carrots, onions and potatoes and some donated pasta, beans, canned tomatoes and zucchini.

The following Sunday, excited students, along with parent volunteers, washed and peeled vegetables and mashed beans in the temple kitchen to create a hearty Tuscan Vegetable Soup. Once the soup was cooked, the students were able to sample the delicious meal that they had created as a school community.

The vegetable soup was donated midweek to the East Greenwich Interfaith Feeding Ministry's "Lunch on the Hill" program located at St. Luke's Church. The students decorated paper placemats that were donated along with the soup. These colorful placemats were put on the tables, and the recipients could look at the beautiful artwork while enjoying their hot meal.

This soup program was an integral part of our ongoing Community Mitzvah Tzedakah program, which provides meaningful hands-on opportunities for students to participate in *mitzvot*. Students learn that important values are a Jewish way of life and can be achieved with kindness, determination and collaboration.



PHOTO | TORAT YISRAEL

Grade 5 works together to prepare the Bone Soup.

DORI ADLER is education director at the Cohen School, Temple Torat Yisrael in East Greenwich.

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A Night At The Deli

Thursday, February 18
Dwares JCC | 401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence
Dinner 6pm | Film 7:30pm
Price (per person): $42 | **Members: $36***
Includes full dinner and admission to the film

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arts & culture

Jewish Alliance
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Children's book 'The Mitten String' ties together themes of kindness

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

Sometimes it only takes one person to inspire a great act of kindness.

The stories we frequently hear of the kind stranger – of the person we sat next to on a plane, or the subway, are only a few examples. For Jennifer Rosner and the readers of her children's book "The Mitten String" (2014, Random House children's division, $17.99), the kindness was in a fictional eastern European village in the 1800s.

The kind stranger in Rosner's story is a little girl named Ruthie who lives with her family in eastern Europe. When her family takes in a deaf mother and her infant son – Bayla and Aaron – after their wagon breaks down, Ruthie notices that Bayla keeps a string tied around her wrist while she sleeps. The string, which is also tied around baby Aaron's wrist, acts as an alert for when Aaron needs attention.

Upon understanding this, Ruthie, whose family is in the mitten-making business, makes special mittens, attached by a string, for the mother and her child.

This story illustrates an important message, both through its writing and through its "woolly"-textured pictures, by Kristina Swarner, that acts of kindness don't always require a huge amount of effort, and can bring great happiness.

Based closely on Rosner's own family history, she came up with the idea for the story when her two daughters, Sophia and Juliet, were born deaf. Rosner did some research and learned that deafness was indeed in her ancestry. In her family tree in the 1800s, there were two deaf sisters who lived in an Austrian village - and you might be able to string together how they kept watch over their little ones while asleep.

While Rosner lives in Northampton, Massachusetts, which is quite different from an Austrian village two centuries ago, the basic message of the story transcends time.

"I think that we're all trying to find ways to be connected to our children and to other people in the world," Rosner says of the metaphor of the story. "What I found interesting about it was that these deaf people found a way of listening … they were an inspiration for a sort of greater connection, and, in a way, listening. I think we all are hoping to have a string from our wrists to our babies, hearing or deaf."

The transcendental value of this story is further supported by it being translated into Spanish and Russian. "It's got these new tentacles out there!" she said with a laugh.

Rosner said she is hopeful the book will also be translated into Hebrew one day, as there are Jewish undertones to the story, such as Shabbat dinner and mention of a prayer shawl.



PHOTO | JENNIFER ROSNER

Jennifer Rosner and daughters.

Rosner's own children, Juliet, 15, and Sophia, 12, have been very supportive of their mother's book, even helping with the planning and publicity.

"They loved it!" Rosner said. "They were actually helpful; they gave me ideas and Juliet gave me mock-up illustrations. They came with me to signings, and sometimes Sophia accompanies me and shows pictures to the kids as I read."

"The Mitten String" isn't Rosner's first publication; she has also written a memoir and many articles that address the more complicated issues of raising deaf children. While "The Mitten String" addresses some of those issues, it's in a more light-hearted way and serves more as an introduction for children to people who might be different from them.

"I think people have felt that it's a book that can expose children to difference in a compassionate and kind way – in a sensitive way – and broaden their exposure to difference," Rosner said.

Perhaps from this story, we too can learn to, in the words of Ruthie's mother, "make our world a bit better with every stitch."

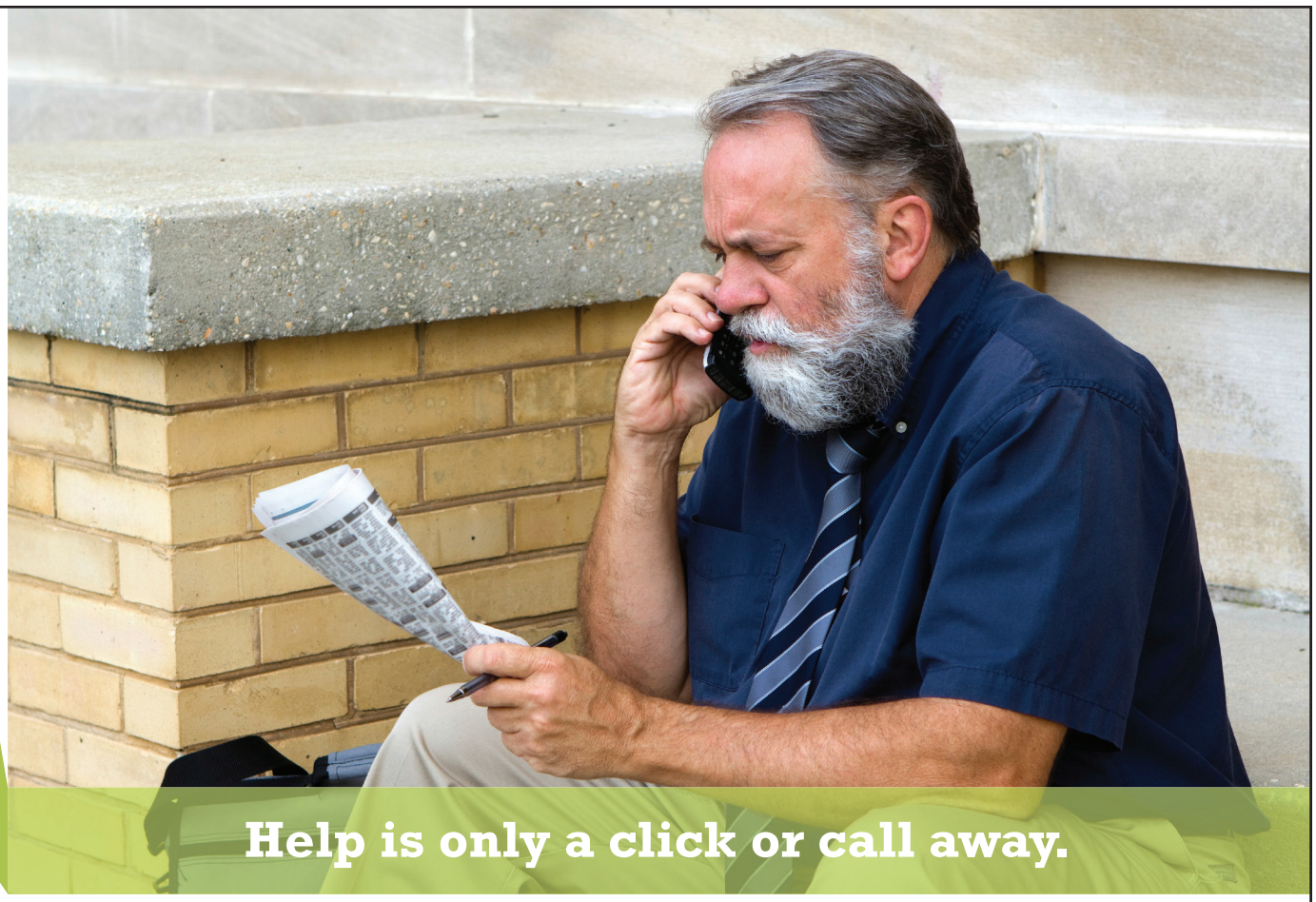
Rosner will read "The Mitten String" at the Jewish Alliance's Dwares JCC, in Providence, on Feb. 21.

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





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Where does 'giving' fit into your life?

BY SARA ADES GOODWIN

How do you feel when you receive a gift? What about when you give a gift? Is it a momentary feeling or a lasting one? Now think about how you feel when you give a donation to an organization you believe in.

Where does giving fit into your life? What is your role as a parent in teaching the importance of giving? What is your responsibility, within your family and as part of your community, to play a larger role – to be a role model and to take a stand on issues that speak to you by volunteering or by making a monetary impact, be it large or small?

It is never too early to contemplate these questions.

Charity has its roots in the Bible. We are all commanded to give a minimum of one-tenth of our income to charity – "Honor God with your wealth, and with the first fruits of all your produce" (Proverbs 3:9).

There are so many opportunities to nurture a "giving mentality" and offer needed support. It often hits us in the face when we find ourselves, or someone we know, in a health situation. Our eyes are opened wide when a loved one's health is in jeopardy because a cure has not yet been discovered. It is typical to jump into action at these times by helping, volunteering and/or donating. Feeling passionate about where you choose to give can be your first step toward building a giving habit.

Numerous studies have found that contributing toward something meaningful increases your sense of well-being and builds stronger social connections, producing a greater sense of satisfaction and instilling gratitude. This can then cause a ripple effect in others and even increase giving amounts.

Regardless of the impetus, we all have something to offer. Consider making giving a priority in your life. After all, why not do good and feel good at the same time?

SARA ADES GOODWIN is the director of major gifts at Jewish Family Service of Rhode Island. She can be reached at sara@jfsri.org.

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Are you pawsitively crazy about your pet?

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Lifelong savings habits can begin with piggy banks

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

Getting your children to understand the importance of saving money isn't easy. Developmentally, children don't even understand the concept of the future until around age 6 or 7, so getting them to understand about saving before that age is particularly difficult. However, even the most difficult job is possible with a little creativity! Here are a few tips on how to get your little ones to understand that their piggy banks serve a higher purpose than just looking cute.



Piggy banks. Speaking of cute piggy banks, this is a classic method. And piggy banks aren't limited to being piggy-shaped – they come in shapes, sizes and characters sure to appeal to the sandbox set – I even had one that was shaped like a giant Tootsie Roll! Encouraging your children to drop a coin or two in every once in a while can really add up. Do-it-yourselfers can even help their children make their own piggy bank, which will surely make them feel invested.

Translate savings into a goal. Erin Anderson, of Atlas Peak Advisors, in Cranston, says equating savings with something children can buy can help them keep their eyes on the prize, so to speak. Translating those daily or weekly contributions into a video game or a tea set can help children understand why immediately spending their money on candy or other junk might not be a good idea.

Matching contributions. Anderson also proposes that you adopt this fundraising strategy, popular with humanitarian nonprofits, by pledging to match your child's contributions to a savings account. This method gives the child an added incentive to save since they'll see the dollars add up quickly.

Non-monetary rewards. The tried-and-true Pavlovian method can be applied to humans, too! Every time children reach a certain milestone in their savings, give them a reward or small gift that isn't money. John McMahon, of Mechanics Co-op Bank in Fall River, Massachusetts, suggests that every $10 earns a pizza night out - and this one includes a bonus for you, too: pizza!

Needs vs. wants. McMahon also suggests that establishing the difference between something your children need versus something they want can be an effective way to help your children save. You can do this by reminding them that the things they want cost money and that saving is a good way to get them.

Hiding savings. A bit unconventional, but this method did wonders for me. When I was in my early teens, I started hiding small amounts of money in objects in my bedroom and then forgot about them. When I came home during college breaks and would clean old things out of my room, well, I had a few nice surprises waiting for me.

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

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Finance tips every college student should know

Family Features – When the acceptance letter arrives from a college or university, it's cause for celebration. But it's also time to do some serious number crunching and take steps to mitigate potential education-related debt.

The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS) estimates that the average student leaves higher education with a diploma in hand, and a debt load of more than $26,000.

Even families who have saved for postsecondary education for years find themselves looking at ways to manage expenses as the cost of tuition, books and room and board continue to rise. Exploring both traditional and non-traditional sources of financial aid can help make those mounting expenses more manageable.

Schedule a meeting with financial aid

As soon as you have settled on which school you'll attend, contact the financial aid office and request an appointment with an advisor. If you're within a drivable distance, it's a good idea to meet in person and develop a relationship with someone who can help you identify potential aid sources you might not have considered. Closer to home, do the same with your high school counselor, who can keep an eye open for scholarships that match your credentials.

Explore association scholarships. Many professional associations and member-based organizations offer competitive scholarship programs. Check with the major employers in your area, particularly any in your chosen field, to find out if they offer any scholarship or grants.

File for federal aid

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), even if you don't think your financial circumstances make you eligible for a grant. You may be surprised by what is available. In addition, research national grants such as Pell Grants that can help defray your expenses.

Secure a career-relevant job or internship. While classes, studying and enjoying a healthy social life are all important aspects of the college experience, gaining experience in your future career field is valuable too. Consult with your school's career center or an advisor in your area of study to uncover paid internship opportunities that will help you develop your resume and bolster your bank account.

Making the most of potential resources to pay for your degree lets you keep your focus squarely on your studies so your next big cause for celebration can be your college diploma.

A handy financial checklist to meet personal goals

StatePoint – Every so often, it is a good idea to take stock of your finances and identify short and long-term priorities.

Following is a checklist of financial to-dos.



Get Budget Savvy

Over three-fifths of Americans identify staying within budget as a "take charge priority" in a recent Lincoln Financial Group Measuring Optimism, Outlook and Direction (M.O.O.D.) of America study. (Lincoln Financial Group is the marketing name for Lincoln National Corporation and its affiliates, which are separately responsible for their own contractual obligations.)

An online tracking tool tied to your bank account is an easy way to monitor spending habits and identify where to make necessary tweaks to redirect money toward important financial goals. Many financial institutions offer these for free.

Boost Retirement Savings

For 59 percent of Americans, saving for retirement is a financial priority, according to the same Lincoln study. Take their cue. You can lower your tax burden by increasing your retirement plan contribution, since deposits are made pre-tax.

Unfortunately, you can't just write a check to your 401(k) if you want to contribute more. The money must come out of your paycheck, and you must ask your human resources department at work to increase your withholding.

Mind Flexible Spending

A flexible spending account (FSA) is a great tool for saving on health care. You decide during open enrollment how much you'd like to have taken out for health care-related expenses throughout the year, and the money is deposited in the account pre-tax.

But there's a catch: You must spend it all before year-end or lose it, although some companies allow you to carry over up to $500 into the next year. Be aware of your FSA, so you don't spend too quickly or too slowly throughout the year. Schedule health care purchases, like new eyeglasses or planned dental work accordingly.

Portfolio Rebalancing

Rebalancing is a necessary but often overlooked portfolio task. Financial advisors recommend reviewing your portfolio periodically to decide whether rebalancing is warranted, typically if your positions have strayed five to 10 percent from where you originally set them.

For example, if you allocated 60 percent of your portfolio to stocks, but it has now moved to a 70 percent allocation due to strong market performance, it might be time to rebalance. Rebalancing helps you restore your allocation back to your intended risk profile.

Charitable Contributions

Don't forget about the causes you care about. If you itemize your deductions, you can take a deduction against donations to 501(c)(3) organizations. Your donations can take many forms: cash, appreciated stocks, or even the cost of ingredients for a meal for a homeless shelter.

A little attention paid to personal finances can go a long way toward a more secure financial future.

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Alliance and Kollel partner with Jewish Women's Renaissance Project

BY STEPHANIE ROSS

Since its inception in 2008, The Jewish Women's Renaissance Project's (JWRP) Momentum program has sent thousands of women on eight-day trips to Israel in its mission to "empower women to change the world through Jewish values that transform ourselves, our families and our communities."

This year, for the first time, the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island is partnering with the Providence Community Kollel and the JWRP to provide the opportunity for local Rhode Island Jewish mothers to go on this trip.

The trip, often referred to as "Birthright for Moms," offers an opportunity to deeply explore oneself. Thousands of women from 19 different countries have already experienced this life-changing trip, paying only their own airfare, and returning home with a deep, eternal connection to Israel, a profound kinship with each other and a heart filled with Jewish values.



PHOTOS| VOICE FILES

"The experience in Israel creates the passionate energy so that once back in Rhode Island, the women are eager to participate in their Jewish life."

The Israel Ministry of Diaspora Affairs supports the program, along with family foundations and individual donations.

This trip is the starting point for more engagement and participation in Jewish and communal life. The experience in Israel creates the passionate energy so that once back in Rhode Island the women are eager to participate in their Jewish life.

The next trip for Rhode Island-area women is July 11-18. The next informational session is scheduled for Feb. 18 at 8 p.m.

The Jewish Women's Renaissance Project trip is intended for women who are not Shabbat observant and who have children under age 18 living at home and being raised to identify as Jews. Candidates are reviewed and selected based on an application and interview process.

FOR INFORMATION, contact Elissa Felder at efelder@jewishallianceri.org. To find out more about the trip, go to jwrp.org.

STEPHANIE ROSS is a public relations professional and freelance writer in Boston.



Participants from aound the world pose for a photo in 2015, top. Above, Rhode Islanders on the 2015 trip.





Giving to charities helps the donor, too

Charitable gifting allows you to satisfy your personal philanthropic desires and fulfill your estate-planning objectives. The "charitable deduction" allows you to deduct the value of property you give to charity from your estate and may reduce any federal gift and estate tax that may be owed.


BARBARA KENERSON

You may wish to give to the charitable community out of devotion, moral obligation, altruism, generosity or a sense of responsibility. Or you may want to give because you believe you will do a better job of distributing your wealth than Uncle Sam. Whatever your motivation, charitable giving should be gratifying.

Gifts to charity can also fulfill your estate-planning objectives. There are no limits on the amount that you can pass to charity: It is possible to transfer your entire estate to charity, tax free. Gifts to charity allow you to:

• Distribute your property tax-free

• Potentially lower the amount subject to estate taxes.

However, remember that property you give to charity is property that does not go to your heirs: Don't let your attempt to save on taxes have the unintended effect of depriving your heirs.

Additionally, remember that charitable gifts are also deductible for income tax purposes for taxpayers who itemize. However, there is a limit imposed on the amount that can be deducted, and other adjustments may be required.

Q. How does a gift or bequest of property qualify for the charitable deduction?

Certain conditions and requirements must be met to qualify for this deduction:

• You must make the transfer, either during life or at death by will, rather than your executor or heirs

• The property must be transferred to a qualified charity for a charitable purpose.

A qualified charity includes:

The United States, any state, the District of Columbia, and any local government; certain religious, scientific, or charitable organizations; certain veterans organizations; certain fraternal organizations; an employee stock ownership plan if the transfer is a qualified gratuitous transfer of qualified employer securities.

Caution: Gifts or bequests to individuals, no matter how needy or worthy the individuals are, do not qualify for the charitable deduction.

Tip: The IRS publishes a list of charitable organizations (the Cumulative List) to which gifts or bequests will qualify for this deduction. The IRS does not define what a qualifying charitable purpose is. However, it has issued Letter Rulings that discuss what has been allowed or disallowed, and it has privately ruled that "charitable purpose" means the same for gift tax and estate tax purposes as it does for income tax purposes. Generally, a charitable purpose means a public purpose, as opposed to a private purpose.

• Depending on the year in which you die, the gift or bequest must be included in your estate for estate tax purposes.

The amount of the deduction is the value of the property transferred, but the amount cannot exceed the value of the property that is required to be included in your estate.

• You must be a U.S. citizen or resident at the time you make the gift.

Tip: A charitable deduction is allowed for nonresident noncitizens, but only certain types of charities qualify.

• Generally, the gift must be a present interest - a present interest means that the donee (the person or organization you give to) has the unrestricted right to the immediate use, possession, or enjoyment of the property, or the income from the property, from the moment you make the gift. The deduction is not available to gifts of future interests in property.

Technical Note: "Future interests" is a legal term and includes reversions, remainders and any other delayed interest that postpones the commencement of the use, possession or enjoyment of the property, or income from the property.

Tip: Gifts of future interests may qualify for the deduction if the gift is structured as a partial interest gift. Partial interest gifts (property rights given to both charitable and non-charitable interests, e.g., a trust paying income to charity, with the remainder going to non-charitable beneficiaries) may qualify for the deduction if the donated property is transferred to an IRS-approved form of charitable trust, such as a charitable lead trust, charitable remainder trust, or pooled income fund.

Q. How do you use the charitable deduction?

For lifetime gifts, the charitable deduction is allowed for the year in which the gift is made for federal gift tax purposes. You don't need to file an annual gift tax return if all gifts made for a given year fully qualify for the charitable deduction.

Q. Are there any special rules regarding the charitable deduction?

The amount of the charitable deduction is limited to the amount of the transfer actually made. Special rules apply if the transfer to charity first must bear a portion of any estate taxes because of the calculation difficulties that arise. Estate taxes are a function of the charitable deduction and the charitable deduction is a function of the estate taxes.

Tip: The interrelated computation can be avoided by providing a specific bequest to the charity, instead of a gift from the residuary estate.

Q. Can you explain charitable IRA rollover gifts?

Donors over the age of 70 1/2 can make tax-free charitable distributions of up to $100,000 directly from their IRAs each year.

Tip: This provision for charitable IRA rollover gifts has been made permanent.

Donors who have reached age 70 1/2 can direct amounts (subject to the aforementioned $100,000 limit) to charity in satisfaction of their minimum required distribution as long as the following requirements are met:

• The donor is age 70 1/2 at the time the gift is made

• The charitable gift is made directly from an IRA to the charity

• An individual can give a maximum of $100,000 per year; a spouse can give an equal amount from his/her IRA

• Individuals can make as many gifts in any amount to as many charities as desired as long as the total does not exceed $100,000 per year

• The gift cannot be made in exchange for a charitable gift annuity or to a charitable remainder trust

• The gift cannot be made to a private foundation, donor-advised fund, or supporting organization (as described in IRC Section 509(a)(3)).

An example of the use of the charitable deduction:

Ron is a small-business owner in the town where he was born and raised. He is a well-liked and respected member of the community. Ron feels he should give back to his community and donates money every year to support the town's zoo, hospital, library, children's center, church and other local charities.

During the years 2011 through 2015, Ron gave $500,000 in total to different charities. Each year, Ron filed a gift tax return but paid no gift tax because the gift tax charitable deduction offsets his taxable gifts.

Each year, Ron also filed an income tax return, reducing his taxable income by the amount of income tax charitable deduction allowed.

Say Ron dies in 2016 and that his will provides for a charitable bequest in the amount of $100,000, with the residuary estate passing to his only nephew, James. Ron's executor reduces Ron's taxable estate by $100,000 (allowed by the estate tax charitable deduction), which then reduces the estate tax owed. Ron's executor pays the estate tax owed and then distributes the residuary estate to James.

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

Pets on Parade

PAWSITIVELY Crazy About Pets



Send us a photo of your pet by FEB. 24 to join The Jewish Voice's PETS ON PARADE in the March 4 issue.

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

Creating an endowment at the Jewish Alliance is a win-win

BY HILLARY SCHULMAN
hschulman@jewishallianceri.org

Would you like to be remembered by future generations? Do you want to leave a legacy? Perhaps you would rather give your dollars to philanthropy than to Uncle Sam? Good news: The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island can help you realize your goals by helping you establish an endowment fund.

What is an endowment? By definition, an endowment includes money or other financial assets that are given to an organization to be invested. From that amount, donors receive investment income, which is then used for purposes that are determined by the donor, the organization, or both.

Each endowment is funded by tax-deductible donations. The foundation where all the funds are kept is overseen by a board of trustees and managed by a team of professional managers. Currently, the Jewish Federation Foundation (JFF), a part of the Jewish Alliance, oversees about $52 million in assets.

So what types of funds are there at the Jewish Alliance? The two biggest are the unrestricted and restricted funds. Restricted funds allow donors to designate their money for a particular organization or interest. For example, a donor can designate the income from their fund to go to the Jewish Alliance's Annual Campaign. Currently, the JFF manages 102 restricted funds.

Unrestricted funds are permanent funds for unrestricted use. For example, a donor can set up an unrestricted fund, and the JFF can allocate that money to help with large, one-time costs, or to go to the Annual Campaign. Currently, the JFF manages 147 unrestricted funds.

"An endowment fund with the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island is easy, and a win-win: You get tax deductions while helping to sustain our Jewish community."

Within these two types of funds, the JFF manages a total of 625 endowment funds, broken up into five categories.

There are 128 Donor Advised Funds, which essentially act as a charitable checking account. Donors recommend grants to be paid for from their fund to the nonprofit organization of their choice, and may add to these funds at any time. The Alliance also has 230 Supporting Foundation Funds, which manage endowments solely for Rhode Island's day schools.



PHOTO | JEWISH ALLIANCE

The Ducoff/Friedman family recently set up a Donor Advised Fund because of their commitment to the community.

The JFF manages 181 funds for Providence Hebrew Day School's endowment and 49 funds for the Jewish Community Day School's endowment.

The JFF also has 18 managed funds, which are funds held for other organizations in the community. Such organizations include the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center, the R.I. Jewish Historical Association, Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh, Temple Sinai, Congregation Agudas Achim, the Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association, Touro Synagogue, the Jewish Federation of Cape Cod and Congregation Beth Sholom.

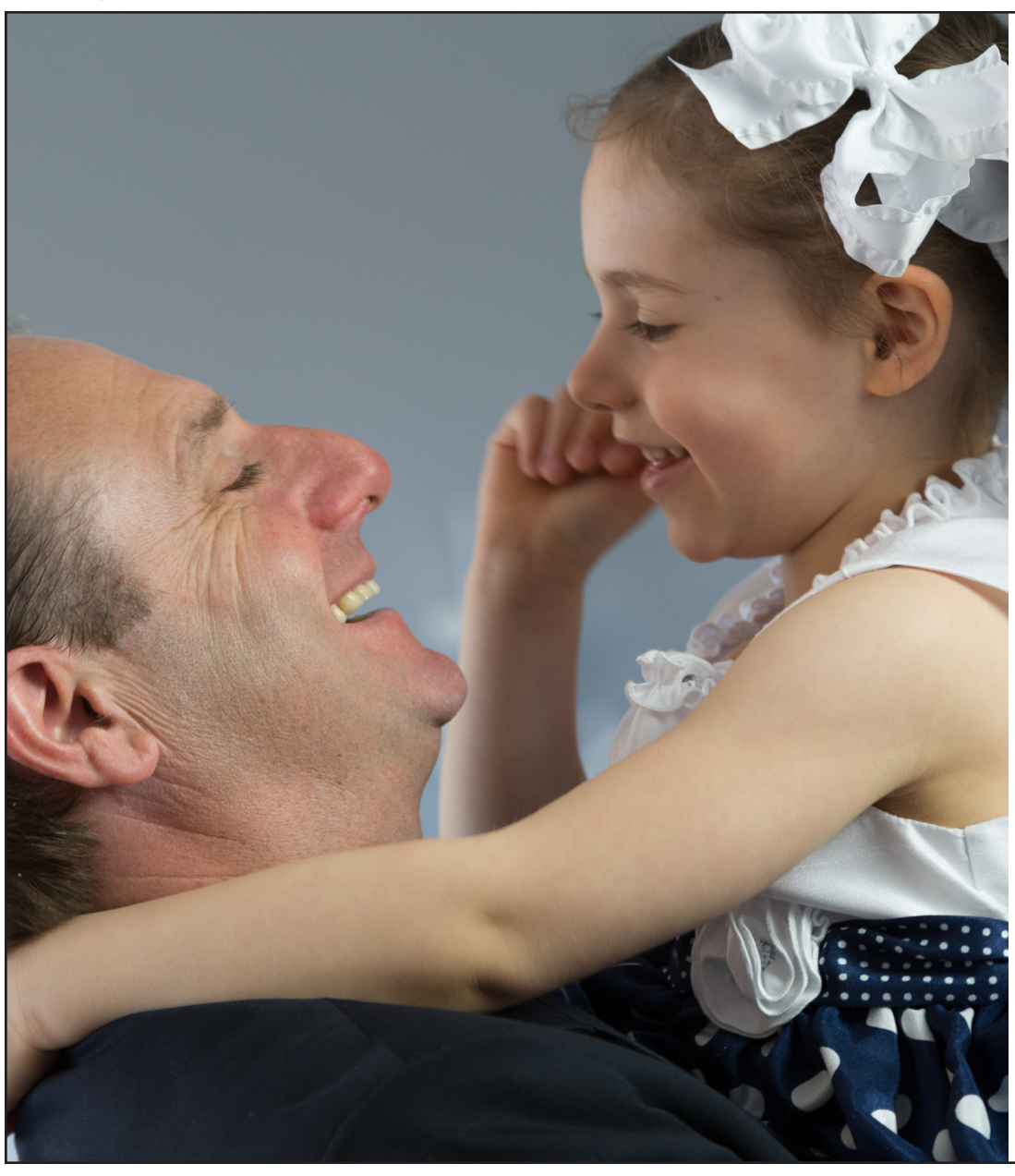
So what's in it for you? Why would you want to set up an endowment fund with the Jewish Alliance? Establishing an endowment fund can offer you a significant tax deduction. For example, you can donate property or other assets and receive a deduction for it, while also earning annual income for life – this is called a charitable remainder trust. You can also donate a life insurance policy, and take a deduction for either the value of the policy and the future premiums you pay, or you can name the endowment fund as an irrevocable beneficiary of a policy.

Additionally, when your assets appreciate, you can give appreciated securities or property to the endowment fund, thereby reducing your capital gains. You can take a deduction for the full value on your income tax.

Setting up an endowment fund with the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island is easy, and a win-win: You get big tax deductions while helping to sustain our Jewish community locally and abroad. The Jewish Alliance can work with your legal, tax and financial advisers to determine which fund is best suited to your needs.

If you would like to set up an endowment fund, or get 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 with the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.



Your life is rooted in Jewish experiences
your legacy can be too.

When you leave a bequest or planned gift, you ensure that the traditions and institutions that mean so much to you today will be there for future generations tomorrow. You leave your children, grandchildren, and the community a precious inheritance and a lasting testimony to your love and values.

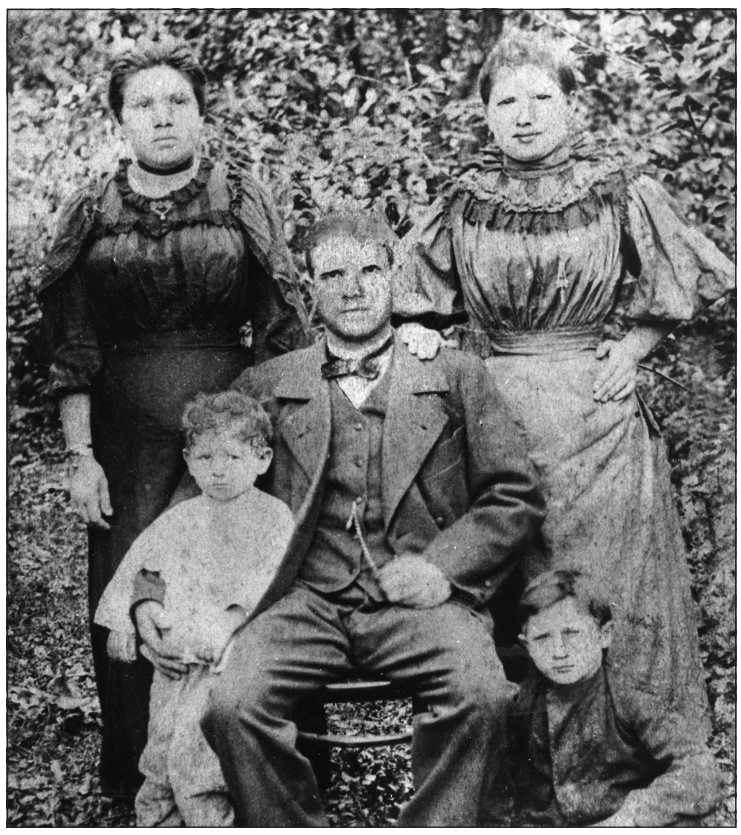
Honor your Jewish past.

Build your future.

Create your legacy.

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

Jewish Federation Foundation
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND



Do you know this family?

Esther M. Gold, of Springvale, Maine, has asked readers of The Voice for help in locating the family that belongs to this photo. She writes: "My family has Providence roots. My grandparents migrated from Poland, married in Providence and lived all of their married life in a house they bought at 44 Pleasant St. Alas, the house is no longer standing. My grandfather, Harry Weiner, was a contractor. He, his brother Sam and his father built the chapel at Lincoln Park Cemetery. My grandmother was very active in many civic organizations.

"My parents, Ida and Irving Morse, married at 44 Pleasant St. My father had a handbag factory, first on North Main St., then on East Avenue in Pawtucket." Her parents spent their retirement years in Barrington. This photo was found among old family pictures.

If anyone knows who is pictured here, please contact The Voice and we will connect you to Esther Gold. Our email is editor@jewishallianceri.org.

NEWS ANALYSIS

5 questions Jews should be asking after Iowa caucuses

BY RON KAMPEAS

JTA – The Iowa caucuses are over – and the first real test of the presidential candidates' viability gave us more questions than answers.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, won the Republican caucus on Feb. 1, relegating Donald Trump, the real estate billionaire, to second place. Both Trump and Cruz ran insurgent anti-establishment campaigns. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., made a strong showing for third place, well ahead of the other "establishment" candidates.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., effectively tied for first.

The New Hampshire primary is on Feb. 9, with Nevada and South Carolina later this month.

By March 2, the day after Super Tuesday, when 14 states and a territory select favored candidates, we should have some answers – like who among the 11 GOP candidates is serious, how much stamina Sanders has and what the general election might look like on Nov. 8.

In the meantime, here are some of the known unknowns for the Jewish and Middle East obsessed.

1. Will Jeb's exclamation point turn into a question mark?

A year ago Jeb Bush, the former Republican governor of Florida, was the GOP's favored son, literally and figuratively, despite his convoluted attempts to distant himself from his father and his brother, including dropping "Bush" from his logo and replacing it with an exclamation point.

Bush attracted the lion's share of the party's traditional fundraisers, including Jewish funders like Fred Zeidman of Texas, Mel Sembler of Florida and Sam Fox of Missouri. They raised more than $100 million toward an extension of the Bush dynasty.

Trump, who went hard at Bush from the outset, has more or less killed that dream. Bush scored 3 percent in Iowa, and before the Iowa vote was polling at 6 percent in New Hampshire. His backers have been loyal until now, but it may be time for a reality check. Rubio – once Bush's protege, although they have clashed during the campaign – is hoping to reap the establishment dividends of a Bush departure.

2. Is Donald Trump fired?

Before the Iowa vote, the reality TV star – who relegated dozens of would-be apprentices to the unemployment line – was well ahead in the New Hampshire race and nationally. But he has staked his candidacy on being a winner and decreed his victory in Iowa a foregone conclusion. On Feb. 1, he delivered an uncharacteristically subdued concession speech, promising to win in New Hampshire and consider buying a farm in Iowa.

Plenty of Jewish Republicans wouldn't mind seeing Trump with a hoe. He has alienated a broad cross-section of the community, offending the socially moderate with his broadsides against Muslims and Hispanics, while unnerving conservatives with his dithering over whether all of Jerusalem is Israel's capital and questioning of Israel's commitment to making peace.

3. "Cruz and the Neocons": A new hit band?

Cruz has been second to none in his Israel boosterism; of the four victory speeches Feb. 1, only his mentioned the country.

"If you want a candidate who will stand unapologetically with the nation of Israel, then support a candidate who has led the fight over and over again to stand by our friend and ally, the nation of Israel," he said.

But Cruz has also faulted neoconservatives for leading the country into too many wars, among them the signature foreign policy event of George W. Bush's presidency, the Iraq War. The Venn diagram overlap between Jewish Republicans and neoconservatives is substantial. Cruz's broadsides against that ideology, coupled with attacks on "New York values," have made some Jewish Republicans wary of whether the Texan is using code to appeal to the less salutary values in the American conservative heartland.

Now that he has emerged as a front-runner, does Cruz reach out to the establishment's Jewish wing of the party and make nice?

4. What will the Adelsons do?

Sheldon Adelson, the casino magnate, pro-Israel powerhouse and Republican kingmaker, has taken to joking in recent weeks about his bickering with his physician wife, Miriam, over Cruz and Rubio. She favors the former, he the latter. On the eve of the Iowa caucuses, it was revealed that the couple had maxed out direct donations to Cruz's campaign, each anteing up $2,700.

It doesn't necessarily mean they've made up their minds. The Adelsons gave similar amounts last year to the campaign of Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., but thus far have refrained from spending tens of millions to fund political action committees not directly affiliated with candidates. The couple have made known to associates that they do not want to repeat what they now feel was a mistake in 2012 – giving millions to groups supporting Newt Gingrich, only to wound the ultimate nominee, Mitt Romney, who lost to Obama in the general election.

With Cruz and Rubio still viable, don't expect an Adelson determination just yet. One thing the couple will be watching is whether Rubio improves his ground game, the network of volunteers and staff necessary to get out the vote state by state. Reporting has suggested that he was surprisingly weak in this area in Iowa.

5. Does Bernie do foreign policy?

In his speeches, Sanders manages to turn typically soporific economic analysis – income inequality, banks, health care – into a rousing call to action.

Not so on foreign policy, where he has allowed himself to be put on the defensive by Clinton, the former secretary of state and first lady, who has framed Sanders as naive and inexperienced – with some success.

It doesn't help that in one debate, Sanders called for "normalization" of ties with Iran and then seemed to backtrack, or that he has repeatedly called Jordan's King Abdullah, a monarch not especially thrilled with the democratic process, one of his heroes.

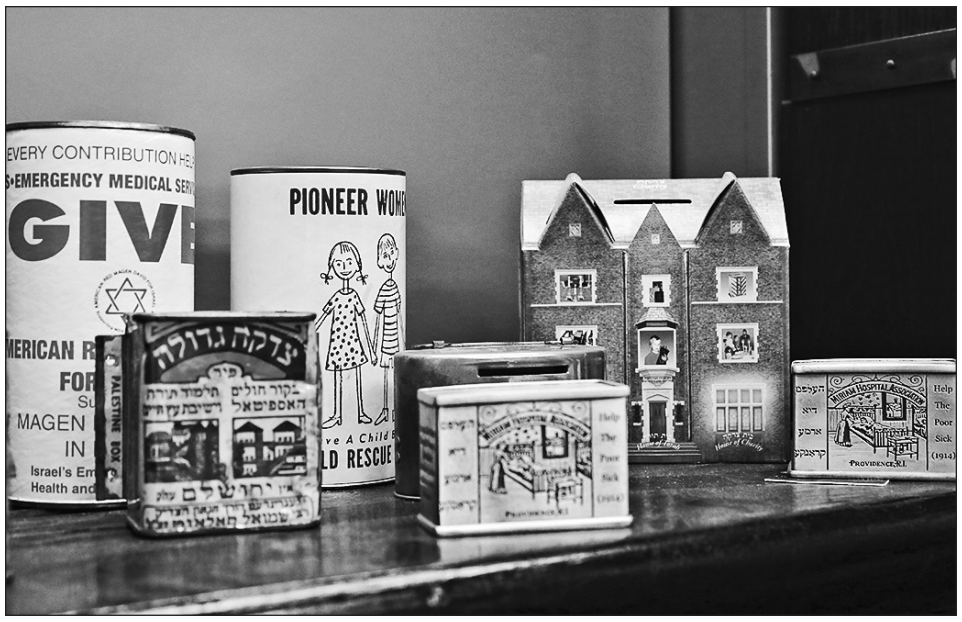
Sanders has focused on the opposing votes he and Clinton cast 14 years ago on the Iraq War: He voted against when he was in the U.S. House of Representatives, she voted for when she was a New York senator.

If Sanders hopes to peel away foreign policy-focused voters from Clinton, he will need to flesh out his plans for the Middle East in particular, where he has said he agrees with Obama and Clinton that America needs to maintain leadership.

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Part of a collection of pushkes from the R.I. Jewish Historical Association.

REMEMBER THE PAST

From the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

A memory of kitchens past, a look to the future

BY GERALDINE S. FOSTER

Back in the day, in the days of my childhood and youth, almost every Jewish kitchen had a *pushke*, or, as some pronounced it, *pishke*. Your pronunciation depended on the dialect of Yiddish spoken in the area of Europe in which your family originally lived.

A *pushke* is a receptacle with a slot on top into which money put aside for *tzedakah* is inserted. It can be a simple box or canister or an elaborate work of art. Fancy, embellished boxes were seldom found in kitchens, but they still served the same purpose – to collect *tzedakah*. They were decorative but not merely decorations or collectables. It should also be noted that *pushkes* weren't limited to homes but were, and still are, found in public spaces, as well as wherever people may be moved to donate.

The *pushkes* found in the kitchens of my youthful years, the years prior to the end of World War II, came in many sizes and shapes: tall, squat, round, rectangular. Colors ranged from white to garish reds and mustardy gold, and each carried the name of the organization providing the *pushke*. Many of the boxes were metal alloy, others were cardboard with a metal top and bottom. The metal boxes had a small trap door with a lock to be opened by a key in the possession of a "collector," someone paid by an agency, or a volunteer. After the container was emptied, the donor received a receipt for the contents. A key was not always necessary; a sharp object easily picked the flimsy lock.

Most of the organizations whose names were emblazoned on the containers were women's organizations. The Zionist groups – Pioneer Women, Hadassah and Mizrachi – all collected money for schools and homes for refugee children arriving in Palestine, many clandestinely, before Israel existed. Whether called Child Rescue or Youth Aliyah, the money collected supported services for children in need. Sisterhoods and social welfare agencies also depended for part of their support on the *pushkes* found in the kitchens of members or supporters.

The most ubiquitous, however, was the "Blue Box," the metal canister of Karen Kayemet, of the Jewish National Fund, which collected money to purchase land for *kibbutzim*, for building roads and infrastructure in Israel. Its face pictured a map of Palestine in white. It was a symbol of a dream and a hope, before there was an Israel. The original Blue Boxes underwent a number of changes in design, but the color endured.

On Erev Shabbat, before lighting the candles, the women of the house would drop a few coins into the *pushkes*. In times of celebration, or stress, a few more coins would be added to the *tzedakah* boxes.

Having multiple *pushkes* in the kitchen is now pretty much a part of the past. One or two is more likely the norm. As the Great Depression yielded to more prosperous times, as new technology lightened their workload, women had more time to devote to volunteering, going to meetings and pursuing careers. Since banks, after World War II, had begun touting personal checking accounts, it became easier to bring a check to a gathering or answer an appeal though the mail. Still, the tradition of dropping a few coins into a *pushke* (decorated or simple) before candle lighting on Erev Shabbat, and in times of celebration or stress, remains. It is a memory of the past, a look to the future.

The Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association has a small number of older or unusual *pushkes*: in Hebrew from Karen Kayemet, the Temple Emanuel Building Fund, United Charities of Jerusalem, the rebbe's house shape from Chabad.

We welcome any and all additional *pushkes*, new or old, simple or decorated. They are a very important part of who we are, of our history in Rhode Island.

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

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Sydney Taylor Book Awards announced

Lesléa Newman and Amy June Bates, author and illustrator of "Ketzel, the Cat who Composed," Aharon Appelfeld, Philippe Dumas and Jeffrey M. Green, author, illustrator and translator of "Adam and Thomas," and Laura Amy Schlitz, author of "The Hired Girl," are the 2016 winners of the Sydney Taylor Book Award.

The Sydney Taylor Book Award honors new books for children and teens that exemplify the highest literary standards while authentically portraying the Jewish experience. The award memorializes Sydney Taylor, author of the classic "All-of-a-Kind Family" series. The winners will receive their awards at the Association of Jewish Libraries Conference in Charleston, South Carolina, this June.

Newman and Bates will receive the 2016 gold medal in the Sydney Taylor Book Award's Younger Reader category for "Ketzel, the Cat Who Composed," published by Candlewick Press. This picture book tells the true story of musician Morris Moshe Cotel, whose cat helped him compose a one-minute composition that received an honorable mention in the Paris New Music Review competition. The illustrations are heartwarming and add much charm to the story. Appelfeld, Dumas and Green will receive the 2016 gold medal in the Sydney Taylor Book Award's Older Readers category for "Adam and Thomas," published by Seven Stories Press. This story tells of two 9-year-old Jewish boys who survive the last winter of World War II, helping each other so that one grows physically stronger and braver and the other grows spiritually. Laura Amy Schlitz will receive the 2016 gold medal in the Sydney Taylor Book Award's Teen category for "The Hired Girl," published by Candlewick Press. This story tells how 14-year-old Joan Skraggs who is Catholic becomes a hired girl to a Jewish family where she learns and grows in unexpected ways.

Five Sydney Taylor Honor Books were named for 2016. For Younger Readers, the Honor Books are "Everybody Says Shalom" written by Leslie Kimmelman and illustrated by Talitha Shipman, published by Random House, and "Shanghai Sukkah" written by Heidi Smith Hyde and illustrated by Jing Jing Tsong, published by Kar-Ben Publishing. "Hereville: How Mirka Caught a Fish" by Barry Deutsch, published by Amulet Books, is the Honor book in the Older Reader category. For Teen Readers, the Honor books are "Serendipity's Footsteps" by Suzanne Nelson, published by Alfred A. Knopf, a division of Random House, and "Stones on a Grave" by Kathy Kacer, published by Orca Book Publishers.

Winners and Honor recipients will be participating in a blog tour from February 9-12, 2016. For more information about the blog please visit www.jewishlibraries.org/blog.

In addition to the medal winners, the Award Committee designated 12 Notable Books of Jewish Content for 2016. More information about the Sydney Taylor Book Award can be found at SydneyTaylorBookAward.org.

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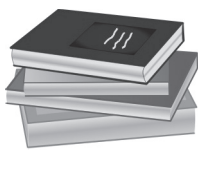
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Ruth Bader Ginsburg : Louis Brandeis inspired my work for women's rights

BOSTON (JTA) – One hundred years to the day of the nomination of Louis Brandeis to the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg paid tribute to the first Jewish justice at a program at the university that bears his name.

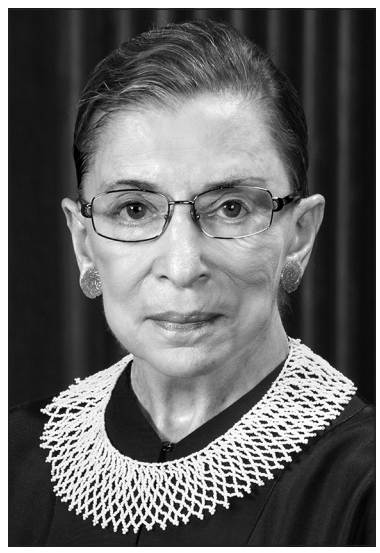
Ginsburg, who is Jewish, told a crowd of some 2,200 students, faculty, staff, elected leaders and others at Brandeis University, in Waltham, Massachusetts, on Jan. 28 that she admired Brandeis for his "craftsmanship, his sense of collegiality and his ability to combine a judicial restraint with the readiness to defend civil rights and liberties."

Brandeis' work has influenced Ginsburg's as an advocate for women's rights and as a judge. Like many others, Ginsburg has been inspired by Brandeis' groundbreaking approach to constructing fact-based legal briefs – still known in legal circles as the "Brandeis Brief" – that drew on real-world circumstances.

Ginsburg praised Brandeis as being open to changing his views when his "initial judgment was not right." In the 1880s, for example, he was opposed to women's suffrage, she pointed out; by the 1910s, he "became an ardent supporter of votes for women."



Louis Brandeis



Ruth Bader Ginsburg

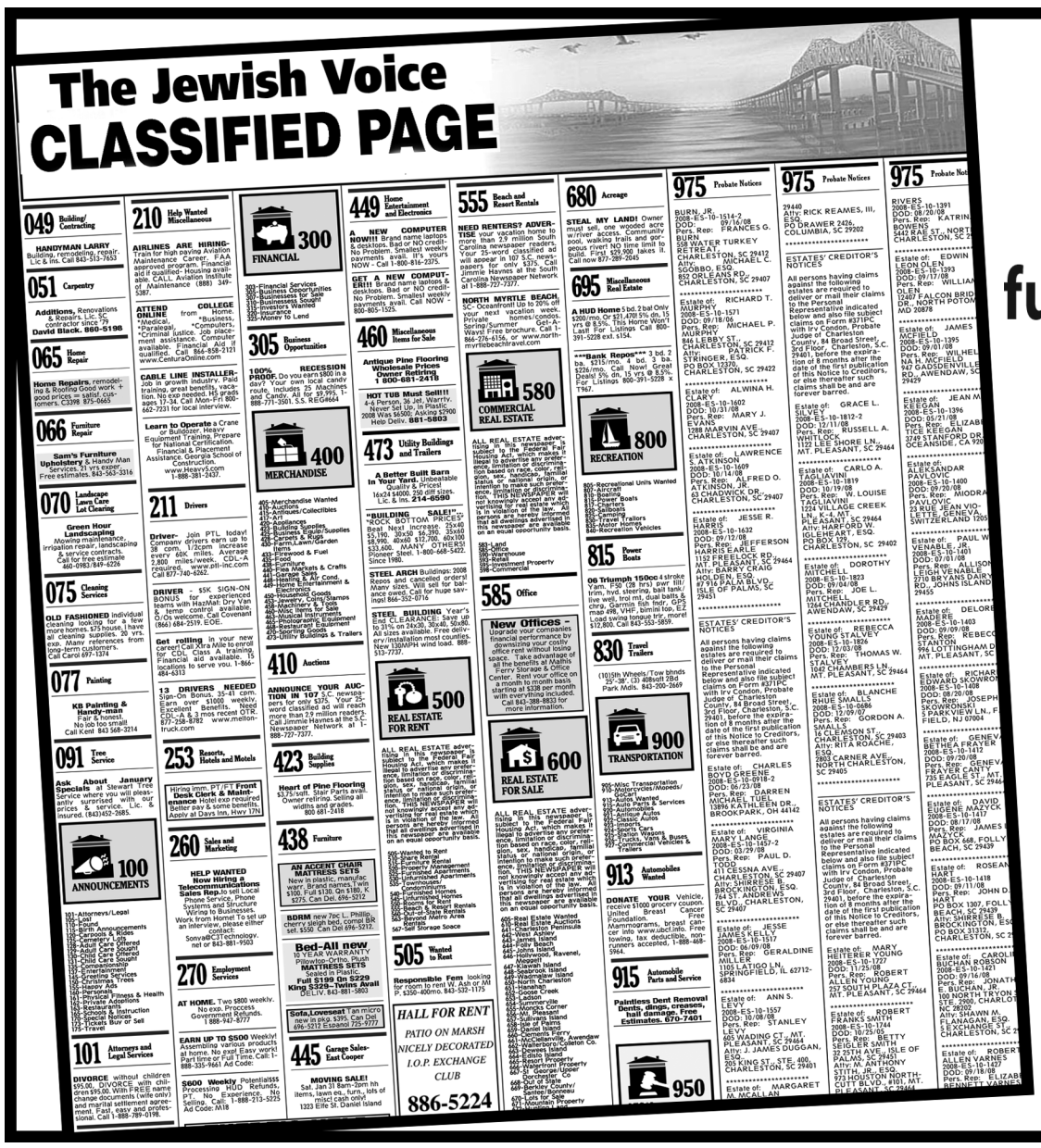
Ginsburg's remarks were part of a panel discussion, "Louis D. Brandeis, the Supreme Court and American Democracy," moderated by Frederick M. Lawrence, a former Brandeis president and senior research scholar at Yale Law School.

The event kicked off a semester-long series that will explore the justice's legacy on a variety of subjects, including free speech, the right to privacy and American Zionism.

Among the other panelists were Philippa Strum, a Brandeis biographer and a senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and Jeffrey Toobin, a legal journalist, author and New Yorker staff writer.

Brandeis' nomination in 1916 was fiercely opposed by then-Harvard University President A. Lawrence Lowell, as well as other elites from Boston's Brahmin circles. Brandeis's nomination was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 5, 1916; he served on the court until 1939.

Since Brandeis' appointment, other Jewish justices have been appointed, including Benjamin Cardozo, Felix Frankfurter and Arthur Goldberg. Today's court, in addition to Ginsburg, appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1993 includes Jewish Justices Stephen Breyer and Elana Kagan.



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460-Miscellaneous
462-Musical Instruments
465-Photographic Equipment
468-Restaurant Equipment
470-Sporting Goods
475-Utility Buildings & Trailers

410 Auctions
ANNOUNCE YOUR AUCTION IN 107 S.C. newspapers for only $375. Your 25-word classified ad will reach more than 2.5 million readers. Call Jimmie Haynes at the Jewish Newspaper Network at 1-888-727-7377.

423 Building Supplies
Heart of Pine Flooring $3.75/sqft. Stair Parts available. Owner retiring. Selling all widths and grades. 800 681-2418

438 Furniture
AN ACCENT CHAIR MATTRESS SETS New in plastic, manufacturer's warr. Brand names,Twin $100, Full $130, Qn $180, King $275. Can Deliv. 696-5212

BDRM new 7pc L. Philllip, cherry finish bed, compl BR set. $550 Can Del 696-5212.

Bed-All new 10 YEAR WARRANTY Pillowtop-Ortho. Plush MATTRESS SETS Sealed in Plastic Full $199 Qn $229 King $329--Twins Avail DELIV. 843-881-5803

Sofa,Loveseat To match new in pkg. $395. Can Deliv 696-5212 Espanol 725-9777

445 Garage Sales-East Cooper
MOVING SALE! Sat. Jan 31 8am-2pm hh items, lawn eq., furn., lots of misc! cash only! 1323 Elfe St. Daniel Island

449 Home Entertainment and Electronics
A NEW COMPUTER NOW!!! Brand name laptops & desktops. Bad or NO credit- No Problem. Smallest weekly payments avail. Call NOW 800-805-1525.

GET A NEW COMPUTER!!! Brand name laptops & desktops. Bad or NO credit- No Problem. Smallest weekly payments avail. Call NOW - Call 1-800-816-2275.

460 Miscellaneous Items for Sale
Antique Pine Flooring Wholesale Prices Owner Retiring 1 800-681-2418

HOT TUB Must Sell!!! 4-6 Person, 36 Jet, Warrty. Never Set Up, In Plastic. 2008 Was $6500/ Asking $2900 Hrbb Deliv. 881-5803

473 Utility Buildings and Trailers
A Better Built Barn In Your Yard. Unbeatable Quality & Prices! 16x24 $4000. 250 diff sizes. Lic. & Ins. 214-6590

"BUILDING SALE!" "ROCK BOTTOM PRICES" Beat Next Increase. 25x40 $5,190. 30x40 $6,390. 35x60 $8,990. 40x60 $12,780. 40x100 $16,600. MANY OTHERS! $33,600. MANY OTHERS! Pioneer Steel. 1-800-668-5422. Since 1980.

STEEL ARCH Buildings: 2008 Repos and cancelled orders! Many sizes. Will sell for balance owed. Call for huge savings! 866-352-0715

STEEL BUILDING Year's End CLEARANCE. Save up to 31%- 24x30, 30x40, 50x80. All sizes available. Free delivery/installation most counties. New 130MPH wind load. 888-513-7737.

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

505 Wanted to Rent
510-Rooms for Rent
515-Property Management
520-Furnished Apartments
525-Unfurnished Apartments
530-Condominiums
540-Furnished Homes
545-Unfurnished Homes
550-Rooms to Rent
555-Resort/Beach Rentals
560-Out-of-State Rentals
563-Beyond Metro Area Rentals
567-Self Storage Space

505 Wanted to Rent
Responsible Fem looking for room to rent W. Ash or Mt P. $350- 400mo. 843-532-1175

HALL FOR RENT
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580 COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE
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583-Land
585-Office
590-Warehouse
595-Retail
598-Commercial Property

585 Office
New Offices – Upgrade your company's financial performance by downsizing your cost by office rent without losing space. Take advantage of all the benefits at Ferry Storage & Office Center. Rent your office on a month to month basis starting at $238 per month with everything included. Call 843-388-8833 for more information.

600 REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
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605-Real Estate Wanted
610-Beach Property
615-Charleston Peninsula
620-Cross County
625-Isle of Palms
630-Kiawah Island
635-Mount Pleasant
640-Out of State
644-Folly Beach
645-Johns Island
646-Hollywood, Ravenel, Rockville
647-Kiawah Island
648-Seabrook Island
649-Wadmalaw Island
650-North Charleston
655-Ladson
656-Goose Creek
657-Ladson
658-Moncks Corner
659-Summerville
660-Sullivan's Island
661-Isle of Palms
662-Daniel Island
663-Clements Ferry
664-Wando/Cainhoy/Awendaw
665-Waterfront Property
666-St. George Under $100,000
667-Out of State
668-Berkley County/ Santee/Bonneau
669-Lots for Sale
671-Mountain Property

680 Acreage
STEAL MY LAND! Owner must sell, one wooded acre w/river access. Community pool, walking trails and gorgeous river! NO time limit to build. Financing available. Call now 877-289-2045

695 Miscellaneous Real Estate
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Bank Repos 3 bd. 2 ba. $215/mo. 4 bd. 3 ba. $226/mo. Call Now! Great Deals! 5% dn, 15 yrs @ 8.5%. For Listings 800-391-5228 x T967.

800 RECREATION
805-Recreational Units Wanted
807-Aircraft
810-Boats/ Boats
812-Charters
820-Sailboats
825-Camping
830-Motor Trailers
835-Motor Homes
840-Recreation Vehicles

815 Power Boats
06 Triumph 150cc 4 stroke Yam. F50 (28 hrs) pwr tilt/ trim, hyd. steering, bait tank/ live well, trol mtr, dual batts & live well, fish finder, GPS chrp, Garmin fish finder, EZ Load swing tongue trlr, original $12,800. Call 843-563-5859.

830 Travel Trailers
(10)5th Wheels/Tow bhnds 30'-38'. (3) 40ft+ 2bd Park Mdls. 843-200-2669

900 TRANSPORTATION
905-Misc Transportation
910-Motorcycles/Mopeds/ Scoters
915-Autos Wanted
920-Autos Parts & Services
925-Automobiles
930-Antique Autos
935-Classic Autos
940-Imports
945-Sport Cars
950-Station Wagons
955-Trucks, Vans & Buses
957-Commercial Vehicles & Trailers

913 Automobiles Wanted
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915 Automobile Parts and Service
Paintless Dent Removal Dents, dings, creases, hail damage. Free Estimates. 670-7401

950
975 Probate Notices
BURN, JR. 2008-ES-10-1514-2 DOD: 09/16/08 Pers. Rep: FRANCES G. BURN 558 WATER TURKEY RETREAT CHARLESTON, SC 29412 Attn: MICHAEL C. SGOBBO, ESQ. 852 ORLEANS RD. CHARLESTON, SC 29407

Estate of: MURPHY 2008-ES-10-1571 DOD: 09/18/08 Pers. Rep: MICHAEL P. MURPHY 846 LEBBY ST. CHARLESTON, SC 29412 Attn: PATRICK F. STRINGER, ESQ. PO BOX 12370, CHARLESTON, SC 29422

Estate of: ALWINA H. CLARY 2008-ES-10-1602 DOD: 10/31/08 Pers. Rep: MARY J. EVANS 1788 MARVIN AVE. CHARLESTON, SC 29407

Estate of: LAWRENCE E. ATKINSON 2008-ES-10-1609 DOD: 10/14/08 Pers. Rep: ALFRED O. ATKINSON, JR. 63 CHADWICK DR. CHARLESTON, SC 29407

Estate of: JESSE R. HARRIS 2008-ES-10-1632 DOD: 09/12/08 Pers. Rep: JEFFERSON HARRIS EARLE 1152 FREELOCK RD. ST. PLEASANT, SC 29464 Attn: BARRY CRAIG GOLDEN, ESQ. 49 PALM BLVD. ISLE OF PALMS, SC 29451

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Estate of: CHARLES BOYD GREENE 2008-ES-10-0918-2 DOD: 06/23/08 Pers. Rep: DARREN MICHAEL TUEL 18896 KAELEEN DR. BROOKPARK, OH 44142

Estate of: VIRGINIA MARY LANGE 2008-ES-10-1857-2 DOD: 03/29/08 Pers. Rep: PAUL D. TODD 411 CESSNA AVE. CHARLESTON, SC 29407 Attn: SHIRRESE E. BROCKINGTON, ESQ. 764 ST. ANDREWS BLVD., CHARLESTON, SC 29407

Estate of: JESSE JAMES KELLY 2008-ES-10-1517 DOD: 06/09/08 Pers. Rep: GERALDINE WILLIAMS 1103 LARGO LN. SPRINGFIELD, IL 62712-6834

Estate of: ANN S. EVYS 2008-ES-10-1557 DOD: 10/08/08 Pers. Rep: STANLEY EVYS 405 WADING CT., MT. PLEASANT, SC 29464 Attn: J. JAMES DUGGAN, ESQ. 303 KING ST., STE. 400, CHARLESTON, SC 29401

Estate of: MARGARET M. MCALLAN 29440 Attn: RICK REAMES, III, ESQ. PO DRAWER 2426, COLUMBIA, SC 29202

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Estate of: GRACE L. SILVERS 2008-ES-10-1812-2 DOD: 12/11/08 Pers. Rep: RUSSELL A. WHITLOCK 1127 LEE SHORE LN. MT. PLEASANT, SC 29464

Estate of: CARLO A. TAGLIAVINI 2008-ES-10-1819 DOD: 10/19/08 Pers. Rep: W. LOUISE TAGLIAVINI 1224 VILLAGE CREEK LN., K-4, MT. PLEASANT, SC 29464 Attn: HARFORD W. IGLEHEART, ESQ. PO BOX 1291 CHARLESTON, SC 29402

Estate of: DOROTHY MITCHELL 2008-ES-10-1823 DOD: 09/04/08 Pers. Rep: JOE L. MITCHELLER 1264 CHANDLER RD. AWENDAW, SC 29429

Estate of: REBECCA YOUNG STALVEY 2008-ES-10-1826 DOD: 12/03/08 Pers. Rep: THOMAS W. STALVEY 1607 CHAMBERS LN. MT. PLEASANT, SC 29464

Estate of: BLANCHE RHUE SMALLS 2008-ES-10-1686 DOD: 12/09/07 Pers. Rep: GORDON A. SMALLS 10 LEMANSON ST. CHARLESTON, SC 29403 Attn: RITA ROACHE, ESQ. 2803 CARNER AVE. NORTH CHARLESTON, SC 29405

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Estate of: MARY HEITERER YOUNG 2008-ES-10-1727 DOD: 11/25/08 Pers. Rep: ROBERT ALLEN YOUNG 257 SOUTH PLAZA CT. MT. PLEASANT, SC 29464

Estate of: ROBERT FRANKS SMITH 2008-ES-10-1744 DOD: 10/25/05 Pers. Rep: MARY SHETTY SEIGLER 32 25TH AVE. ISLE OF PALMS, SC 29451 Attn: N. ANTHONY STITH, ESQ. 973 HOUSTON NORTHCUTT BLVD., #101, MT. PLEASANT, SC 29464

975 Probate Notices
RIVERS 2008-ES-10-1391 DOD: 08/20/08 Pers. Rep: KATRINA BOWENS 3442 RAE ST., NORTH CHARLESTON, SC 2

Estate of: EDWIN LEON OLEN 2008-ES-10-1393 DOD: 09/17/08 Pers. Rep: WILLIAM OLEN 12407 FALCON BRIDGE DR., NORTH POTOMAC, MD 20878

Estate of: JAMES MCFIELD 2008-ES-10-1395 DOD: 09/01/08 Pers. Rep: WILHELMINA H. MCFIELD 947 GADSENVILLE RD., AWENDAW, SC 29429

Estate of: JEAN M. KEEGAN 2008-ES-10-1396 DOD: 05/21/08 Pers. Rep: ELIZABETH KEEGAN 3749 STANFORD DR. CHARLESTON, SC 29420

Estate of: ALEKSANDAR PAVLOVIC 2008-ES-10-1400 DOD: 09/20/08 Pers. Rep: MIODRAG PAVLOVIC 28 RUE JEAN VIOLETTE, GENEVE SWITZERLAND 1205

Estate of: PAUL W. LEIGH VENABLE, JR. 2008-ES-10-1401 DOD: 07/01/08 Pers. Rep: ALLISON VENABLE 2710 BRYANT AIRY RD., JOHNS ISLAND, SC 29455

Estate of: MADELINE 2008-ES-10-1403 DOD: 09/09/08 Pers. Rep: DELORES STANTON 906 LOTTINGHAM DR. MT. PLEASANT, SC

Estate of: EDWARD SKOWRON 2008-ES-10-1408 DOD: 09/20/08 Pers. Rep: JOSEPH SKOWRON 3 PARKVIEW LN., FIELD, NJ 0704

Estate of: BETHEA FRAYER 2008-ES-10-1412 DOD: 09/20/08 Pers. Rep: GENEVA FRAYER CENTY 735 EAGLE ST., MT. PLEASANT, SC 2946

Estate of: EUGENE MAZYCK 2008-ES-10-1417 DOD: 08/17/08 Pers. Rep: JAMES MAZYCK PO BOX 668, FOLLY BEACH, SC 29439

Estate of: HARRY 2008-ES-10-1418 DOD: 09/11/08 Pers. Rep: JOHN D. HARRY PO BOX 1307, FOLLY BEACH, SC 29439 Attn: SHIRRESE E. BROCKINGTON, ESQ. PO BOX 31312, CHARLESTON, SC 2

Estate of: BUCHAN ROBSON 2008-ES-10-1421 DOD: 09/16/08 Pers. Rep: JONATHAN E. BUCHAN, JR. 100 NORTH TRYON ST. STE. 2900, CHARLOTTE, NC 28202 Attn: SHAWN M. FLANAGAN, ESQ. 5 EXCHANGE ST. CHARLESTON, SC 2

Estate of: ALLEN VARNES 2008-ES-10-1427 DOD: 09/18/08 Pers. Rep: ELIZABETH BENNETT VARNES

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Beatrice R. Conrad, 88

WAKEFIELD, R.I. – Beatrice Ruth Conrad (Freedman) passed away peacefully on Jan. 27 at her home in Wakefield, surrounded by her family. Born in Philadelphia, the daughter of the late Allan and Gertrude Freedman, she was predeceased by her beloved husband, Herbert Conrad, to whom she had been married for more than 55 years. Beatrice is survived by her twin children, Allan Conrad of Manalapan, N.J., and Susan Woodford Nelson of Peacedale. She was the loving grandmother of eight grandchildren, Daniel, Rosie, Marilyn, Justin, Meredith, Gabrielle, Matthew and Jeffrey, and three great-grandchildren, Eve, Hero and Luca.

Beatrice previously resided in Berkeley Heights, N.J., where she and her husband were congregants at Temple Sinai in Summit, N.J.. for many years. She was a graduate of Hunter College, and was a multi-talented, passionate woman who later earned a master's degree in English Literature and School Social Work.

After meeting Herbert at the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, where he was employed in research for the war effort, they married and moved to New Jersey where they raised their children. She was an accomplished English teacher at Summit High School, and later a school social worker, while Herbert's career as an analytical chemist advanced through National Starch Chemical Company to Johnson & Johnson, where he eventually retired as a distinguished and highly regarded scientist.

She was also a talented short story author and poet, who was published on a number of occasions, including "American Scene: New Voices," "The Night of the Falling Star," and "The Lyric." Her work was also recognized in "The Quotable Woman," a widely published compendium of distinguished authors and poets. Beatrice was also an accomplished soprano vocalist, having performed lead roles in numerous little theater productions including "Cabaret," "Fiddler on the Roof," "1776," "Funny Girl" and "The Most Happy Fella." She continued to pursue her creative talents, leading the Poetry Group at Brightview Commons in Wakefield.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Doctors without Borders, 333 7th Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10001-5004.

Morton Gilstein, 82

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Morton Gilstein died Jan. 26. He was the husband of the late Maureen E. (McCormick) Gilstein. Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Irving and Anna (Max) Gilstein. He was a graduate of Brown University Class of 1955.

He worked for many years as a sales manager in the payroll processing industry and worked at Mt. Sinai and Sugarman-Sinai chapels for more than 40 years.

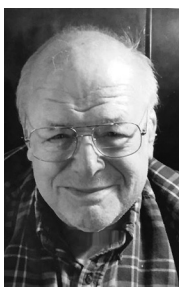
He was in the US Army serving stateside during the Korean War. He was a Brown Class Officer and reunion chair and was a member of the Brown Club, Brown Sports Foundation, Temple Emanu-El, Toastmasters, Knights of Pythias and the Hebrew Free Loan Association.

He is survived by his children; Andrea Gilstein of Coral Springs, Fla., Judi Herman of Shrewsbury, Mass., Wendy Ginsberg of Wellington, Fla., and Jennifer Secaur of Scituate, Mass.; and his grandchildren Joshua, Brandon, Jeffrey, Daniel, Colleen, Joseph, Craig and Amanda. He was the brother of the late Howard Gilstein.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Ovarian Cancer Society or Brown University Class of 1955.

William Bernard Golditch, 83

PROVIDENCE – William Bernard Golditch, "The Furniture Dr.," passed away Feb. 1. He was the husband of Marian (Malenbaum) Golditch. Born in Providence, a son of the late Nathan and Shirley (Alprin) Golditch, he was a lifelong resident of Providence.



He was a veteran of the Korean War, serving in Germany.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his sons Neil (Liz), Gary (Manuela) and Jason (Lynda); brother Charles Richards; and grandchildren Jeffrey, Tatiana, Ethan and Ryan. He was the father of the late Tamra.

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

Norman B. Jagolinzer, 83

PROVIDENCE, R.I. –Norman B. Jagolinzer died Feb. 1 at home. He was the beloved husband of Lotta (Lawrence) Jagolinzer. They were married for 57 years.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Harry and Minnie (Pritzker) Jagolinzer, he had lived in Providence, previously living in Barrington.

He was a broadcaster at WLKW FM Radio Station for more than 30 years, retiring in 2004. He was a graduate of Classical High School, a member of RI Broadcasters Hall of Fame and Temple Beth-El. Dear brother of the late Edith Schiff and Ruth Biller. Cherished uncle of Barry and Pam Schiff of Cranston, Susan and Jeffrey Shapiro of Marlborough, Mass., and Bennett Schiff of Philadelphia, Pa.

Contributions in his memory may be made to The Brotherhood of Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Avenue, Providence, RI 02906.

Sonya 'Sonny' Woolf, 87

SARASOTA, FLA. – Sonya 'Sonny' Woolf of Sarasota passed away on Jan. 10 at Sarasota Memorial Hospital after a short illness. She was born on Feb. 8, 1928, in Providence and was a long-time resident of Rhode Island before relocating to Sarasota. A graduate of Hope High School, she was the beloved wife of the late Charles Woolf for over 50 years. A member of Temple Beth-El, she was an enthusiastic member of the Sisterhood and the Temple bowling league.

She is survived by her daughter, Joanne (John) Barrett; two sons, Barry Woolf and Steven (Frandee) Woolf; five grandchildren, Scott Woolf, Emily Gray (Woolf), Reilly Barrett, Heather Gerth and Courtney Walder. She was preceded in death by her three sisters, Muriel, Dora and Gertrude, and her grandson Seth.

Contributions can be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Sarasota, Fla.

Maine group established to preserve, restore local Jewish cemeteries

JTA – A nonprofit group has been established to preserve and restore Jewish cemeteries in southern Maine.

The Southern Maine Jewish Cemetery Association has taken ownership of two historic Portland cemeteries that have fallen into disrepair and have toppled headstones, the Forecaster, a newspaper in Falmouth, Maine, reported.

The new group hopes to raise $1.2 million to fund operating costs and establish an endowment.

The move comes as many aging American Jewish cemeteries are in states of disrepair due to inadequate financial planning and no new sources of revenue. A small but growing number of Jewish communities – including in the Boston and New York areas and Cincinnati – have established or are creating nonprofit organizations to raise funds for and take over operation of these burial grounds.

One of the cemeteries taken over by the Southern Maine Jewish Cemetery Association, the Smith Street Cemetery, was established in 1875 and was Maine's first Jewish cemetery. The cemetery has been full for 40 years.

"One of the things we want to do is bring the cemeteries back into the communities," the group's president, Wayne Goodman, told the Forecaster. "There is a lot of heritage there. There is a lot of learning to do there."

Goodman was motivated to start the group when he discovered that several headstones of family members had shifted, and he learned the cemeteries lacked funds for upkeep.

"[The cemeteries] are going to be resource spenders, not revenue generators as they were 80 or 90 years ago," he said. " We have to build a reserve so we can take care of them into perpetuity."

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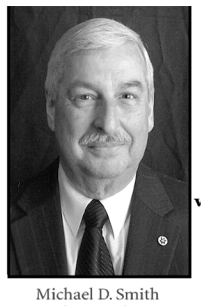
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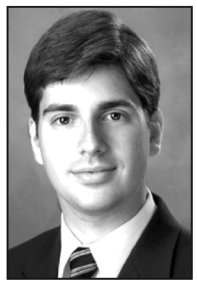
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JCDS second-graders become *Tu b'Shevat* explorers at Eastside Marketplace

BY ROTEM GOLDSHMID AND RHONDA MILLS

To celebrate *Tu b'Shevat*, Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island (JCDSRI) second-graders went on a search for the essence of life at a place where you've been many times.

They recently headed to the Eastside Marketplace, where they went on a mission to collect fruits from trees and vegetables from the earth. The other shoppers asked, "What is this beautiful language the children are speaking?" We answered in one voice: "It is an ancient language; it is a modern language. It is the language of our people, the Jewish people. It's the Hebrew language!"

We return to school filled with the bounty of our mission, satisfied and eager to come together to enjoy a taste of the upcoming spring bounty.

ROTEM GOLDSHMID and **RHONDA MILLS** are Hebrew and Judaic Studies teachers at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island.



Back at JCDS, the children try the fruits and vegetables.





Second-graders collect fruits and vegetables for Tu b'Shevat.

PHOTOS | JCDS



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Choir returns to Habonim

Four years ago the Keystone State Boychoir (KSB) enthralled Temple Habonim members at a Friday night worship service with their beautiful voices.

They will return to R.I. and Temple Habonim on Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. bringing their inspiring music to the Shabbat service. Forty young men, ranging in age from 11 to 18, will sing.

This year, the choir will perform the second movement of Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms. One of the solos will feature Bobby Hill, the young man who sang a solo for Pope Francis when he visited Philadelphia in the fall.

Keystone State Boychoir is counted among the finest, most successful community-based choral programs in the world. It is the only choir in the world to have sung on seven continents – including Antarctica.

The mission of Keystone State Boychoir is to provide outstanding choral music education and performance opportunities for boys and young men from diverse backgrounds, while nurturing leadership skills, building character and fostering self-discipline.

The entire community is invited to join the congregation for an evening of worship and song.

Marilyn Baker featured in Imagine magazine

Marilyn Baker, of Warwick, is one of 14 women actors showcased in the November 2015 issue of Imagine magazine. The cover article is "Fourteen Fabulous Actors Age 50 and Over: Over Achieving That Is."

Marilyn has always been drawn to the performing arts and has a strong background in music. She has performed as a chorus and choir singer and soloist in synagogues, churches, community theater, solo programs, and the former Providence Opera Theater. Since retiring from full-time employment, she has studied acting and has appeared in locally and nationally produced films and videos.

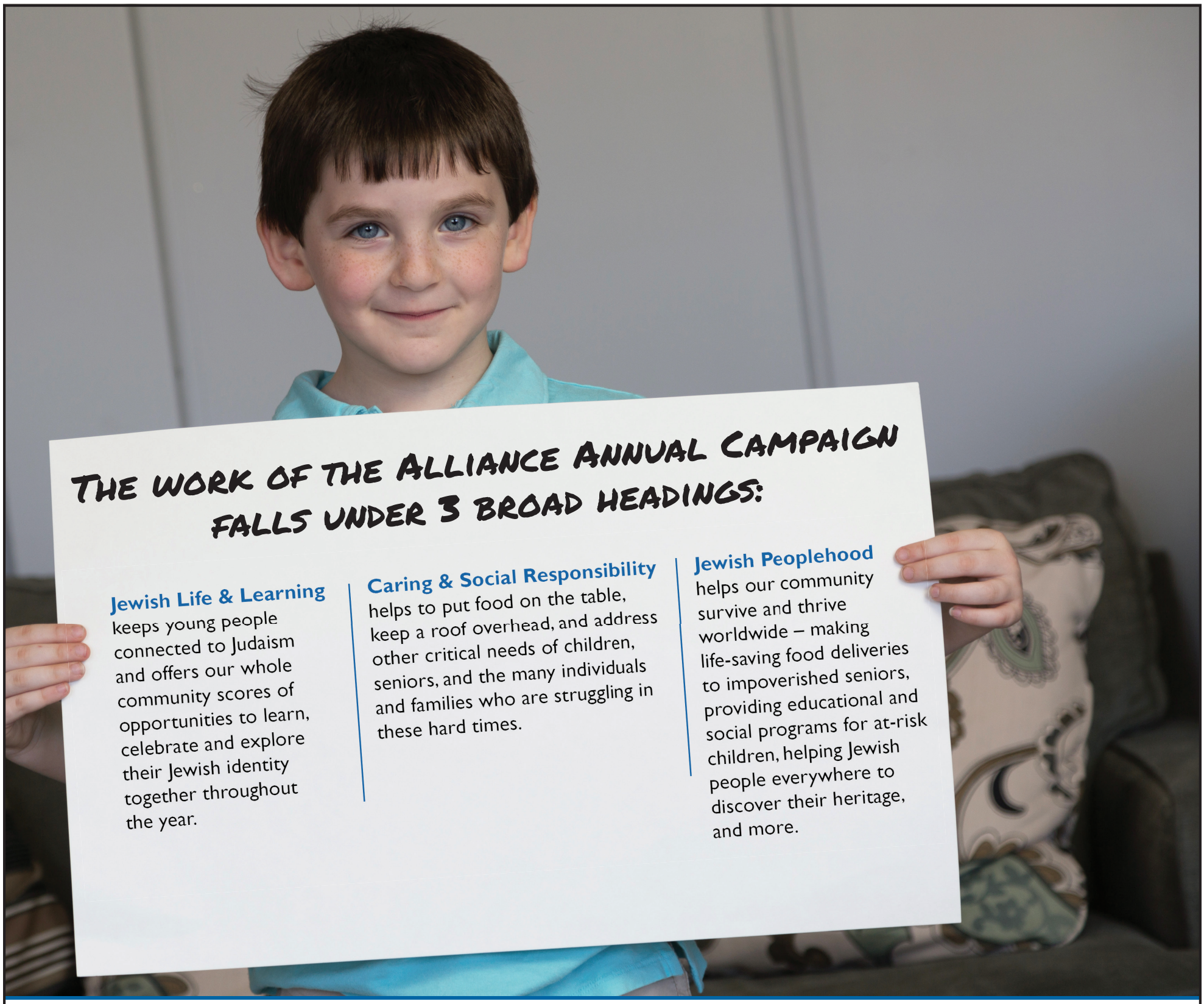


Imagine is published in Boston and presents news and stories about film, television and new media production with an emphasis on New England.



Page in Israel

REBEKAH PAGE was in Akko recently during a trip to Israel for research. Page, 23, is a clinical psychology student at the University of Hartford. Her area of specialty focuses on trauma and emergency services. Israel is one of the leading countries for research in psychological studies of individuals exposed to extreme trauma. She used her Gift of Israel funds to make this trip possible. Families can begin enrolling children in third grade. For more information regarding the Gift of Israel, contact: Israeldesk@jewishallianceri.org



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In 2016, the Rhode Island Foundation celebrates the 100th anniversary of our founding. We are proud to be Rhode Island's community foundation and grateful to the many partners who have made our state stronger over the past 100 years.

At the heart of a community foundation is community. Throughout the year, we will honor the people, places, and traditions that make Rhode Island special.

Together, we can build a lasting community. Contact Neil Steinberg, President and CEO, at (401) 427-4007 or nsteinberg@rifoundation.org.

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