the JEWISH VOICE

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FATHER'S DAY

What does it mean to be a good Jewish father?

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

A few years ago, in anticipation of the birth of his daughter, comedian Jimmy Kimmel dedicated a portion of his show to investigating "how to dad." By asking a handful of young kids a series of questions about parenting, Kimmel effectively learned some major pillars of parenting, including, "don't swear," and how to change a diaper according to a 6-year-old.

But what makes a good dad in the context of Judaism? We talked to three different rabbis about fatherhood.

There is a passage in the Talmud that explains literally what a father should do for his child after birth, and it reads:

"A father is obligated to do the following for his son: to circumcise him, to redeem him if he is a first born, to teach him Torah, to find him a wife, and to teach him a trade. Others say: teaching him how to swim as well."

Two of the three rabbis cited this passage as part of their understanding of fatherhood, including Rabbi Elyse Wechterman, the former rabbi of Congregation Agudas Achim in Attleboro, Mass.

"It's a really bizarre quote, but I always like to quote it because of 'teaching him how to swim,'" says Wechterman, a Reconstructionist rabbi and the mother of two.

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PHOTOS | IRVING SCHILD

Gardeners gather together at Cong. Ohawe Sholam

Participants in the beautification project at Ohawe Sholam gather for a group photo May 29. Approximately 50 people pitched in to help spruce up the outside of the Pawtucket shul, planting flowers and trimming bushes. More photos on page 18.



PHOTO | ELLEN BENSUSAN

Seth Chitwood, Michael Sheff, Joan Sheff and Faye Dion concentrate on the game while Jerry Weiner looks on.

Mahjong – it's not just for women anymore

A co-ed group meets weekly at United Brothers Synagogue

BY SETH CHITWOOD

About a year ago, mahjong became a new interest in my mother's life. Watching my mother's group play this confusing game, I became intrigued. What is this mahjong? I had to have an answer!

It turned out that getting an answer was the easy part, because my mother was eager to practice. Noticing my interest, she dug into her bag for tiles and game cards.

At first, I remember just feeling dumb and being overwhelmed. I even pronounced mahjong wrong.

"What is this sorcery?" I kept asking. "I have no idea what is going on!"

But, eventually, it clicks, and the more you learn, the more fun it is.

Still, I was apprehensive. "Isn't this a ladies' game?" I

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THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE

"... emphasize the voices in our tradition that encourage our daily relationship to a living presence."









PHOTOS | CHABAD OF R.I.

Community members celebrate *Lag B'Omer*

On May 26 there was fun, food, a parade and a visit by Davey the Clown. The gathering took place at the Sessions Street Park in Providence and was sponsored by Chabad R.I.

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Mission to Berlin, Budapest highlights many needs in awakening Jewish communities

BY BARRY FAIN

My first trip to Germany came after college in the late '60s as part of the typical "if it's Thursday, it must be Belgium" grand tour of Europe. West Germany back then was very much still in its remarkable rebuilding mode, initially made possible by the wisdom of the Marshall Plan, and enhanced by the work ethic of its citizenry. But evidence of the war remained unavoidable. The German trains we took still had many seats reserved for disabled veterans. To kill time on our trips, my roommate and I would speculate as to whether the older passengers on the train were ex-Nazis or spies for the East Germans.

The journey took an emotional turn, however, when we hired a cab from Munich and visited Dachau. There we met a group of returning survivors who quietly described the atrocities, the horrors they endured and how they maintained their determination to survive. Suddenly all that had been hearsay and textbook-driven became painfully real. It was all we could do to get back to the city. And there was no meal for us that night.

So when my wife, Elaine, and I had an opportunity to join the recent Alliance Mission to Berlin and Budapest, I was curious and excited to participate in a return visit. We had only been on one mission, a true bonding adventure to Israel with five families, when all our kids were B'nei Mitzvah age. It had been wonderful. And best of all Trine Lustig (now vice president of philanthropy for the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island), who had been the leader of our group, was to be the staffer on this trip as well. While this time we only knew about half of our fellow travelers, we could not have asked for a better, more knowledgeable, more congenial and more interesting group with whom to share this unique experience. And with the irrepressible Jeffrey Savit (president and CEO of the Alliance) as our ringleader, how could it not be entertaining?

It's hard to imagine a more intriguing place to visit right now than Berlin. In addition to becoming one of the economic engines of the European continent, with the fall of the wall, the city is now at the center of a pragmatic test to see if Western and communist values can be blended into a single functioning contemporary environment. It's also a city that seems determined to acknowledge and educate the current generation of its citizens about the horrific atrocities committed by their fathers and grandfathers. And it has become a "hot city" for young artists and families, including Israelis, in search of freedom of expression, while also providing one of the broadest social safety nets in Europe, a vibrant intellectual community and an affordable lifestyle replete with quality education and efficient public transportation.

The appeal to Israelis was expressed by Lana Zilberman, the guide who accompanied us the full length of our journey: "The Israel that I love and in whose army I served, is changing. The model of Israel after our founding, where the government took care of its people, is being replaced by one that is becoming unaffordable for my generation to all but the entrenched or the wealthy. I know many young Israelis, especially artists, who are exploring the model here."

One of the virtues of this particular trip was that organizers Alan and Marianne Litwin and Bob and Mitzi Berkelhammer made sure that, in addition to the unique opportunities we had to learn about and explore aspects of the cities though a Jewish prism, we had enough free time to follow our own particular interests. In both Budapest and Berlin, we spent the first day receiving a broad overview of life in each city. The following days' focus shifted to Jewish-based issues, past and present. And there was still time available for individual roaming.



Back row (left to right): Barry Fain, Jeff Vogel, Marianne Litwin, Jill Goldstein, Larry Goldstein, Elaine Fain, Larry Katz, Mitzi Berkelhammer, Trine Lustig, Alan Litwin, Bob Berkelhammer, Michael Nulman. Front row (left to right): Jeffrey Savit, Nancy Broude.



PHOTOS | TRINE LUSTIG

Elaine Fain and Nancy Broude in front of one of the cars that was popular in East Germany during communist rule.



The memorial at the crematorium at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

The problems within both Jewish communities are unique. In the case of Budapest (pronounced *Buda-pescht* by the way), it's a painful reminder of what ultimately happened to the Jews of Hungary. In the first years of the war, Hungarian Jews were spared much of what befell their European brethren. "This city was called Jewdapest," our guide told us. But during the last months, the horrific happened. Germany assumed control of the country and installed the right-wing Arrow Cross. Over 500,000 Hungarian Jews were rounded up and murdered, most at Auschwitz, some right in downtown Budapest. One of the most moving memorials is the Shoes on the Danube installation in remembrance of the thousands of Jews shot and dumped into the river by the Arrow Cross. After the war, few surviving Hungarian parents felt comfortable informing their children of their Jewish roots. Recent efforts, especially through innovative summer camp programs aimed at trying to re-establish Jewish ethnicity to an entire, unaware generation, seem to be proving successful.

In Berlin, the problem involves infighting within the Jewish community. After the war, Germany tried to convince Jews to return to the country. An obvious problem initially, gradually some Jews began to return. Most of the immigrants arrived from Russia as part of the Right of Return. To be allowed to leave, all a Russian citizen had to prove was that one of his or her grandparents was Jewish. Upon arrival in Germany, however, they discovered that the more orthodox German Jewish rules applied, meaning one is only considered Jewish if his mother is Jewish. Since then a battle for control of the official Jewish community, which is the entity that receives state funding for synagogues and the like, has become an electoral nightmare, almost Rhode Island-esque in its machination.

As our group heard of the struggles of Hungarian, Russian and German Jews to maintain, and, in some cases, rediscover, their Judaism, I realized how fortunate we are to be living in a country where inclusion and acceptance seem to define our broad Jewish experience. Regardless of one's background, gender, religion or spouse or degree of observance, there is usually a Jewish group, some self-organized, some formal, some not, that is willing to embrace him and make him part of their community. How ironic that the same discussions of cultural and religious inclusion are surfacing in Germany with the onslaught of a new wave of immigration and the rising success of the Alternative for Germany, a right-wing populist political party. As we continue to provide much-needed assistance to our worldwide brethren, along with our monetary support, perhaps we ought not overlook the importance of tolerance and inclusion.

BARRY FAIN is a resident of Providence and president of Providence Media, publishers of more than a dozen magazines and websites including East Side Monthly and Providence Monthly.

Cohen School celebrates another successful year

BY DORI ADLER

The Cohen School at Temple Torat Yisrael, in East Greenwich, celebrated its graduates and students at closing ceremonies on May 22.

The children were blessed under a large tallit by Rabbi Aaron Philmus, and parents and other family members watched a slideshow of school events from throughout the year.

The ceremony was followed by an ice cream sundae social, entertainment from a balloon artist and a *Lag B'Omer* gardening program led by Philmus and farmer Steve Sherman.

The slideshow showcased the hands-on learning and programs that the students participated in during the school year, including practicing Hebrew reading and decoding skills while playing games, watching relevant videos, singing prayers, and creating arts and crafts. Photos also showed the students learning about Jewish holidays and the Bible, as well as Jewish ethics, how to be a *mensch* and Jewish life-cycle events. Happy students were seen participating in the High Holiday services, decorating the *sukkah* and attending the Hanukkah party, Purim Carnival and a Dr. Seuss megillah reading.



Blessing the students under the tallit.



PHOTOS | TORAT YISRAEL COHEN SCHOOL

Graduate Livia Adler-Maranhao with Rabbi Aaron Philmus and teacher Rabbi Joel Hoffman

In addition to all the learning in Sunday School this year, the Cohen School continued to build a feeling of community, *kehillah*, that taught the children to help people. The school's hope is to inspire in the students a lifelong commitment to helping others, and to *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, through shared Jewish values and a sense of belonging to the Jewish community.

These valuable school experiences connect young Jewish families with other families and the local community. This year, students and their families built connections with the R.I. community through Community *Tzedakah* Projects, which included tying fleece blankets for the animals at the Cranston Animal Shelter, making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and soup to feed the hungry at St. Luke's Food Cupboard, painting beautiful crafted menorahs that were delivered to elderly residents at the Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence in Warwick, and baking hamantashen that were delivered in decorated *mishloach manot* (Purim baskets) to Torat's elderly community members.

Each student is a link to the community. Students were asked as part of the closing ceremonies to answer one of the following questions and write their answers on a foam link: Something I can do for my community?; Something I did in Sunday School that helped my community?; or One thing/program/craft that I enjoyed this year in school is?

After reading their answers aloud, the students connected their foam links to create a long school chain that will be hung in the *sukkah* in the fall.

The Cohen School also celebrated the accomplishments of its seventh-grade graduates, Livia Adler-Maranhao, Jennefer Berman, Samantha Finder, Jordan Kalinsky, Stella Mayo and Ryan Silverman.

Special memorial awards were presented to three students. The Anna R. Sholes Award recipient was Sarah Hochhauser, the Michelle Pam Ross Award recipient was Jennefer Berman, and the Wendy B. Adler Award was presented to Livia Adler-Maranhao. *Mazal tov* to the families and the graduates!

The Cohen School also thanked its dedicated staff, Rabbi Joel Hoffman, Alyse Teitelbaum, Tracey Bosco and Brittany Borkum, for a wonderful year of learning. Barbara Dwares, the school's Community *Tzedakah* teacher, was singled out for her great support of the school's mitzvah programs.

The school has some great new programs planned for next year, including the introduction of a *Tzedakah* Super Heroes project.

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

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Fifth Annual Meeting

Jewish Alliance OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 | 7:00pm
Temple Beth-El | 70 Orchard Avenue, Providence

Presentation of Leadership Awards
Board Installations:
Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island
Jewish Federation Foundation
Alliance Realty, Inc.
Rabbi Sarah Mack, *Installing Officer*

Reception to follow

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Point Street Reading Series brings authors, book lovers together

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

May 20 was the third Tuesday of the month, which meant it was time for the Point Street Reading Series, Rhode Island's newest – and perhaps only – reading series.

Started by Robin Kall-Homonoff two months ago, the Point Street Reading Series brings authors together to read aloud from their recently published works to an audience of book lovers. The series is held at the popular bar Point Street Dueling Pianos, in Providence's Davol Square.

Kall-Homonoff, of East Greenwich, who is known throughout the region for promoting literature, greeted each guest and warmly introduced each author. On this Tuesday, Camille Perri, Christopher Boucher, Ellen Herrick, Dawn Tripp and Cristina Alger read to an audience of 80 to 90 people.

From a book about workers who funnel money out of their workplace to pay student loans to a possum who accompanies a narrator to pick up a piano, the excerpts were varied and novel. Each author had his or her own reading style: Some were calm, some animated, some used a different voice for each character.

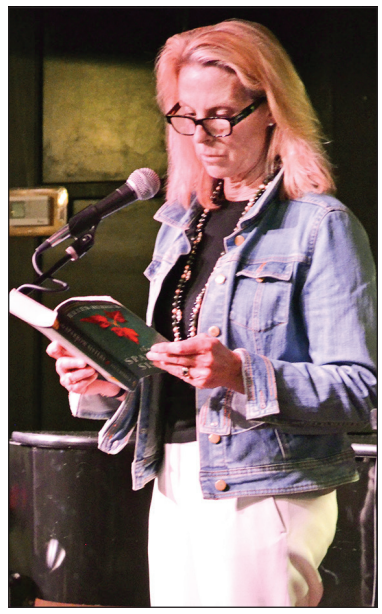
One author announced that part of her reading was "saucy," drawing a happy "woohoo!" from one audience member. Another even included a banjo performance.

One thing the authors seemed to have in common is their affection for the event organizer.

"She is a force of nature," Herrick said of Kall-Homonoff before the evening began. "She has an energy unlike anything I've ever seen."



THE AUTHORS: Dawn Tripp, Ellen Herrick, Cristina Alger, Camille Perri, and Christopher Boucher, standing, Robin Kall-Homonoff.



Ellen Herrick reads an excerpt from her novel titled "The Sparrow Sisters."

Herrick said that when she was initially invited to read, and learned that the event was being organized by Kall-Homonoff, her first thought was, "Of course! Anything for her."

Lover of all things literary and affectionately known to some as "the Fairy Bookmother," Kall-Homonoff said she planned the series as a relaxed evening of listening, chilling out and appreciation.

"My main goal is creating a sense of community about something I'm really passionate about, which is reading. The pure joy of reading," she said.

Until recently, Kall-Homonoff hosted a radio talk show, "Reading with Robin," and she still holds "Evening with Authors," an annual breast cancer fundraiser in October.

For the May 20 readings, the Brown University Bookstore set up a table at Dueling Pianos with a display of the books being read, which could then be taken to another table to be signed by the authors. There was also a raffle for the books that would be read from at the June 21 session, which Kall-Homonoff is looking forward to.

"It's a community builder," Kall-Homonoff said of the series. "I'm thrilled. I think it's just going to build."

Dueling Pianos is located at 3 Davol Square in Providence. For more information, visit readingwithrobin.com or the Point Street Reading Series on Facebook. Reservation are not required to attend the event, which is free, and free parking is available. Groups of four or more may request a table at robin@readingwithrobin.com.



The authors sign books for audience members during an intermission.

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

Growing from the roots

BY NAVA WINKLER

I became interested in Torah during my college years at Brown University. I felt the need to gain a more nuanced understanding of Judaism as I confronted puzzling social and intellectual challenges on campus. My attempt to answer questions, such as "What are the essentials of Jewish belief and philosophy?" and "Why should I be committed to being Jewish?" led me to canonical Jewish texts spanning centuries and continents. On the way, I also discovered published works by writers in my own family, such as my Yemenite grandfather's book on the weekly Torah portions and my Palestinian/Danish great-grandfather's scholarly pamphlets on issues in the Gemara. These discoveries were exciting and provided my identity with a richer sense of context.

I had the opportunity to learn Torah in Jerusalem this spring, thanks to the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. The scholarship afforded me two months at a yeshiva for women called *Midreshet Rachel V'Chaya* where I studied Torah for about 40 hours a week and lived in a beautiful neighborhood called Har Nof ("mountain with a view").



PHOTO | NAVA WINKLER

*Nava Winkler with her class as they celebrated finishing a important Jewish book called "Path of the Just" ("*Mesillat Yesharim*") by Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato. Winkler is in the back row all the way to the right with the dark hair and the scarf near the green balloon.*

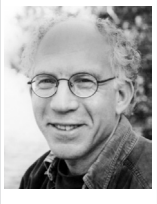
At *Midreshet Rachel V'Chaya*, I was able to advance my learning of these texts and integrate them more fully into my life. I also had the opportunity to meet other women who were just as fascinated by the sources of our tradition as I was. This special community of Jewish women continues to guide me in my learning and growth.

Thank you to the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and its donors for aiding me in this important journey of my Jewish identity and a genuine thank you also to the Jewish nonprofits such as MEOR and *Midreshet Rachel V'Chaya* for making excellent learning programs available for young Jewish men and women.

NAVA WINKLER is from Pawtucket. She graduated from Brown University in 2014 and now lives and works in Tel Aviv.

Standing at Sinai

Shavuot falls on the sixth day of the Hebrew month of Sivan and is observed on the sixth and seventh days in the Diaspora. In our liturgy we refer to it as *z'man matan torateinu* (the time/season of the giving of our Torah), yet in the Torah itself no explicit association of *Shavuot* with the receiving of Torah is made.



RABBI MARK ELBER

In the Torah, *Shavuot* is referred to as an agricultural holiday, one of the three pilgrimage festivals (Passover, *Shavuot*, and *Sukkot*). In *Sh'mot* (Exodus) 23:16 it is referred to as *Chag Hakatzir*, the feast of the harvest, while in *B'midbar* (Numbers) 28:26 it's also referred to as *Yom Habikurim*, the day of the first fruits. The name *Shavuot* itself means "weeks" because *Shavuot* occurs essentially seven weeks after Passover.

Certain numbers have great significance in our tradition. The number eight, though less thought of as such, is one of them. It is a number often associated with transcending nature. Among the first occurrences of eight that people will think of is the holiday of Hanukkah which is an eight-day holiday popularly associated with the miracle of one day's supply of oil lasting for eight days. Another common association with eight is *Brit Milah*, the covenant of circumcision – a connection with the Eternal One that also transcends nature and occurs on the eighth day of a baby boy's life.

Though neither Josephus nor Philo, both of whom lived at the end of the second Temple period, related *Shavuot* with the Revelation at Mount Sinai and the receiving of Torah, by the time of our Talmudic sages, the connection was central to the holiday's meaning. The Revelation at Sinai is probably the most transcendent moment in the Torah. According to our tradition, when did it occur? After seven cycles of seven! In other words, it occurred at the beginning of the eighth cycle.

One of my favorite midrashim depicts Moses up on Sinai wondering what is taking God so long to write the Torah, when he sees the Blessed Holy One attaching crowns to the letters. Moses asks what's delaying the Master of the Universe. The Holy One tells him that in the future there will arise a man, Akiva ben Yosef, who will expound mounds and mounds of *halakhot* (Jewish laws) on every crown. Moses wants to see this amazing person. The Holy One transports him to the eighth row of Akiva's house of study! Moses doesn't understand what Akiva is teaching, which he finds quite dispiriting. Then he hears Akiva's students ask, "from where (Akiva) do you learn this?" Akiva responds that it's *halakhah* that Moses received at Sinai! The midrash goes on, but for our purposes, this is enough.

The holy *chutzpah* of the Midrashist is breathtaking. It both allows for evolution in the tradition and sees it all as going back to a primordial revelatory experience. This brings to mind the saying in *Pirkei Avot* (The Chapters of our Ancestors) 6:2 that every day a Divine Voice (*Bat Kol*) emanates from *Khorev* (another Biblical name for Sinai). This reading of the tradition perceives that the experience of revelation, which is the sacred myth of the experience at Sinai, is perennially possible. We can always wake up as our ancestor Jacob did and realize "*akhen yesh Hashem bamakom hazeh*" (indeed the Eternal One is in this place) (Genesis 28:16) – which is every place.

How we understand revelation, which is what *Shavuot* has primarily been about since the dawn of the rabbinic era, is a central part of our relationship to Judaism and a factor in determining which expression of Judaism resonates most for us. Among the innovations of the kabbalistic community in 16th century *Tzfat* (in northern Israel) was the *Tikkun* of the (first) night of *Shavuot*, that is the custom of staying up all night studying various classic texts of our tradition. A couple of years ago at our *Tikkun* at Temple Beth El in Fall River, we studied the ways different influential Jewish thinkers understood revelation.

There are many ways of understanding revelation. For some people, it is an historic occasion that occurred approximately 3,300 years ago. The farther we are from it, the weaker our consciousness and connection to it. I prefer to emphasize the voices in our tradition that encourage our daily relationship to a living Presence. I find this implied when the Torah speaks of receiving some mitzvah "today" – i.e., every day and any day – it can come alive for us. I go back to the opening *Mishnah* of *Pirkei Avot* that begins by saying *Moshe kibel Torah miSinai* (literally, Moses received Torah from Sinai), that is, Moses received Torah (literally Teaching with a capital "T"). It doesn't say "*et haTorah*" (the Torah). It feels more open-ended in the formulation in *Pirkei Avot*.

We can still bring new Torah, new insights into the world. One of my favorite teachings regarding revelation also goes back to 16th century *Tzfat*, to Isaac Luria, the *Ari* (1534 -1572) who taught that every soul has its own letter in the Torah, which I take to mean that every person has the potential to bring unique insight into Torah and new Torah into the world. May we all merit learning from each other's Torah, as it says, once again in *Pirkei Avot* (4:1): "Who is wise? The one who learns from everyone!

MARK ELBER is the rabbi at Temple Beth El in Fall River, Massachusetts.

Women of the Wall director detained by police over Torah scroll

JERUSALEM (JTA) – The executive director of the Women of the Wall was detained by police after smuggling a Torah scroll into the women's section of the Western Wall.

Lesley Sachs was questioned June 6 at the Israel Police station in the Old City of Jerusalem and released several hours later. She was not arrested.

Women of the Wall, which is committed to liberal prayer at the Western Wall, said in a statement that Sachs was detained while exiting the Western Wall with the Torah scroll following the group's monthly morning prayer service for the new Jewish month. The reason given for the police action was "smuggling a Torah scroll into the women's section," according to the group.

The scroll was lent to the organization by Congregation B'nai Israel in Sacramento, California. Some 80 women participated in the service, the group said.

Western Wall regulations bar women from bringing a Torah scroll to the Wall. There are about 100 Torah scrolls located in the men's section for public use.

In the past, Women of the Wall has smuggled a mini-Torah scroll into the women's section. During another service, male supporters of the group hoisted a scroll over the divider between the men's and women's sections, encountering violent opposition.

In 2003, Israel's Supreme Court upheld a government ban on women wearing tefillin or tallit prayer shawls, or reading from a Torah scroll at the Western Wall, saying it violated "local custom." Three years ago, a judge determined that the group's activities were not illegal, and women have not been detained over wearing prayer shawls for several months.

Women of the Wall has held a special prayer service at the holy site nearly every month for the last 20 years on *Rosh Hodesh*, or the beginning of a new Hebrew month, at the back of the women's section.

The detention comes as plans for an egalitarian prayer section at the Western Wall have stalled due to haredi Orthodox opposition, and a day after Rabbi Shlomo Amar, Israel's former Sephardic chief rabbi and the current Sephardic chief rabbi of Jerusalem, called the plan an "unforgivable wrong, a sin that begets more."

Former chief rabbi: Western Wall compromise will 'weaken Jerusalem'

JTA – Israel's former Sephardic chief rabbi said that a landmark compromise establishing a mixed-gender prayer space at the Western Wall will "weaken Jerusalem."

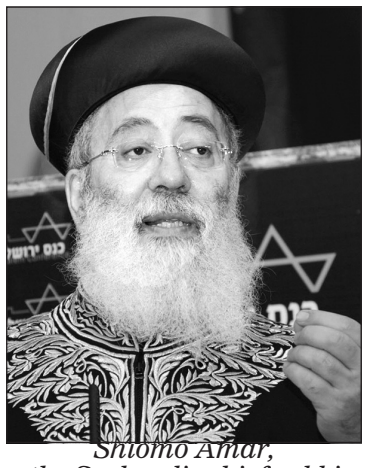
Speaking on June 5, Shlomo Amar, who is currently the Sephardic chief rabbi of Jerusalem, also referred to the liberal Jewish proponents of expanding non-Orthodox worship space at Judaism's holiest site as "wicked," the Times of Israel reported.

Although Israel's Cabinet voted in January to expand the holy site's non-Orthodox section to the south of the traditional plaza, now under Orthodox control, haredi Orthodox parties protested the decision and no changes have been implemented there yet.

Both of Israel's current chief rabbis oppose the compromise.

Amar said allowing the space would be an "unforgivable wrong, a sin that begets more. And if we do not maintain our holy commitment on these matters, we will find ourselves immediately dragged into things that will lead to a schism among the people."

Last week, leaders of the Reform and Conservative movements said they were "frustrated" after meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss the



Shlomo Amar, the Sephardic chief rabbi of Jerusalem

situation. At the meeting, Netanyahu reaffirmed his support for a deal creating a designated prayer section for non-Orthodox worshipers, but did not promise to oppose changes demanded by his haredi Orthodox coalition partners.

The haredi parties oppose the construction of a shared entrance to both prayer spaces, as well as non-Orthodox representation on the committee that manages the non-Orthodox area. In March, Netanyahu initiated a 60-day period to reexamine the deal, which expired last week.

This was not the first time Amar had criticized the plan for a mixed-gender prayer section. In March, he compared it to destroying the Western Wall altogether and said proponents of such a section "pretend to pray" and "act brazenly and mockingly, which is a desecration."

Candle Lighting Times

Greater Rhode Island

June 10	**8:00**
June 11 Eve.1st day of Shavu'ot light candles after	**9:12**
June 12 Eve.2nd day of Shavu'ot light candles after	**9:13**
June 17	**8:03**
June 24	**8:04**



Musings in June



EDITOR

FRAN OSTENDORF

I'm a worrier. You name it, I worry about it. Honestly, if there isn't something to worry about in my life, I will find something. Or, I can find something in yours.

I want to say this is a family trait. But it's hard to pin down.

When it came to my ability to worry, my father was a matter-of-fact kind of guy. As an editor at a small paper, I'd sometimes worry about a vacation getting in the way of doing my job. At the end of the vacation, no matter the length, I'd get a call from Dad: "Paper get out?" he'd ask. And the answer, of course, was "Yes, Dad."

That memory makes me smile. Have I learned my lesson?

Not a chance.

But I will take that nice memory with me through Father's Day and beyond. And I'll continue my quest to cut down on the worrying.

Here at The Voice, we are getting rid of our worries by taking care of housekeeping and tying up loose ends before our July publishing break. I'm still marveling at the fact that it's already June. And now, we're planning for our next issue – June 24 – which will be the last until August.

In the past, I'd be writing a note to remind readers to send in their calendar items. But we have a new website with an interactive calendar. So while you might still want to go online as soon as you can to post those calendar notices, they will continue to be accessible to the entire community throughout July. And you can keep posting other news and information, too.

We will also continue to update the website with fresh news as soon as we have it. Did you notice that when the Kollel sign was defaced, we had the information on our website before it was in the paper? And when the Touro Synagogue ruling came out, it was on our website. Because The Voice is a biweekly paper, you would have had to wait days to read about it in the print newspaper.

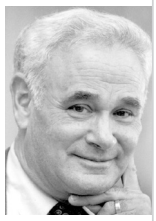
There's no doubt that the news never stops. So keep checking jvhri.org for the latest from the community. And don't hesitate to contribute your news and photos as well.

"We appreciate everyone who has expressed confidence and support for The Voice."

Speaking of contributing, our Patron campaign isn't over yet, either. It runs until the end of June. And we need your help. Donations are down so far this year and here at The Voice, we have initiatives that need your support. We appreciate everyone who has expressed confidence and support for The Voice. Each and every donation is appreciated – and acknowledged – no matter how big or small.

In case you are wondering, yes, I sign every acknowledgment letter. Our donors are an important part of The Voice. We love to hear from you, and we hope you like what we are doing. And we hope you will consider making a gift before the campaign ends. Your support goes directly to the operation of your community newspaper to help it grow and to improve our coverage.

Martin Buber: The world of 'between'



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

In my column four weeks ago (May 13), I wrote about my teacher and mentor, Rabbi Eugene Borowitz, who died Jan. 20, a month before his 92nd birthday. I noted that the first of his 17 books, "A Layman's Introduction to Religious Existentialism" (1966), laid out the pattern of religious thinking with which he would be engaged for the next 50 years.

Borowitz drank deeply from the existentialists, who share a common approach even though they do not necessarily arrive at common conclusions. At the center of this approach stands not the disembodied intellect but rather the whole person, body and soul – "the self, the concrete individual facing the problems of existence in a very specific here and now," as Borowitz puts it in his first book.

Of all the religious existentialists, Martin Buber (1878-1965) had the most profound influence on Borowitz's growth as a Jew who placed his living relationship with God at the very core of his identity. Buber's best-known work, "Ich und Du," was published in 1923; "I and Thou," the first English version of the German original, was translated by Ronald Gregor Smith in 1937, followed by Smith's revised second edition in 1958. Then, in 1970, Walter Kaufmann offered a new translation, which he titled "I and You." Buber's fundamental distinction between the I-It and the I-Thou types of relationship has been widely discussed in a general way for the past several decades – even by those who have never heard of Buber and who have but a vague understanding of what lies behind these terms.

Broadly speaking, the I-It relationship is one between a person (I) and an object (It). More often than not, we relate to other people as objects, as "Its"; we use them, we manipulate them, we evaluate their strengths and weaknesses to help us predict their likely behavior. Buber makes it clear that there is nothing wrong *per se* with the relationship of I-It; indeed, it is the default relationship by which we make our way through the world. What is a problem is allowing the I-It to be the only way we relate to other people.

To express our humanity in its completeness, we need to find ways to relate to another person not as an object – an It – but as a subject, as a whole person, as a Thou. In such cases, the I and the Thou are mutually present, fully open to each other in all of their uniqueness and mystery; yet they preserve their separate identities. Neither the I nor the Thou is absorbed into the other; there is no loss of self. The two remain two – separated by the hyphen, by the "between."

In some ways, the I-Thou relationship has characteristics of the first stage of a new relationship – the beginning of a friendship, the beginning of a romance. However, Buber warns us that no human relationship can endure in its I-Thou state; at their best, human relationships oscillate between I-Thou and I-It:

"But this is the exalted melancholy of our fate, that every Thou in our world must become an It ... the Thou becomes an object among objects – perhaps the chief, but still one of them, fixed in its size and its limits." There is a difference between the world of young lovers and the world of a marriage seasoned by 50 years of togetherness. Nevertheless, with hope, love and a sense of humor, even the most timeworn relationship can move from I-It to I-Thou before it is "by its nature fated to become (once again) a thing, or continually to re-enter the condition of things."

In the third and final part of "I and Thou," Buber develops those beliefs which define him as a religious existentialist: his concern for the fullness of human experience, for the whole person engaged with the world, as opposed to the detached intellectual, for the Thou as well as the It puts him squarely in the existentialist camp. However, Buber insists that our relationship with God is essential to our wholeness. Indeed, it is our relationship with other persons that point us toward our relationship with God.

Buber begins Part III with these words: "The extended lines of relations meet in the eternal Thou.

"Every particular Thou is a glimpse through to the eternal Thou."

What Buber is saying is that, during those precious moments when we encounter another as a Thou, we are learning what it means to encounter God, the "eternal Thou," "the Thou that by its nature cannot become It." Our path to God is to be found in our human relationships at their fullest, in what lies between the I and the Thou – in the hyphen, as it were. As Buber puts it in the final paragraph of his book, God is found "near to the sphere that lies between beings, to the Kingdom that is hidden in our midst, there between us."

In a profound sense, then, we discover God when we discover each other.

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

New anti-Semitism definition replaces scrapped EU version, U.S. official says

JTA – The new international definition of anti-Semitism that mentions Israel hatred was adopted in part to replace a similar one scrapped by the European Union, an initiator of the new text said.

Robert Williams, a U.S. delegate at the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), told JTA on June 7 that his intergovernmental agency of 31 Western nations adopted its new definition of anti-Semitism in May partly as a response to the 2013 removal from the website of the EU's anti-racism agency of a definition that also mentioned the demonization of Israel as an example of anti-Semitism.

"After that happened, we decided at IHRA to have discussions about adopting a definition, and the result was the adoption of a text very similar to the definition abandoned by the European Union," Williams said.

Manifestations of anti-Semitism, the new definition reads, "might include the targeting of the State of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity," though "criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic."

Like the abandoned EU definition, the IHRA text also lists comparisons between Israel and Nazi Germany as anti-Semitic.

The EU definition was dropped following lobbying by pro-Palestinian activists. In response to a query about the removal, an EU spokesperson told the JTA in 2013 that the definition was never official. Israel protested its removal.

Williams said the adoption of an IHRA definition also was a response to an increase in anti-Semitic incidents in Europe and beyond.

In addition to the demonization of Israel, the IHRA definition also mentions classic forms of Jew hatred.

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).

Solidarity with our neighbors is essential to Rhode Island's Jewish community

BY NOEL RUBINTON

It isn't easy to make something good out of something horrible, but something positive has occurred in the aftermath of the sickening anti-Semitic graffiti incidents in Pawtucket and Cranston last month.

First, it's been heartening to see the united front of the Rhode Island Jewish community in denouncing the episodes. Sadly, recent years have seen too much fighting among Jewish denominations worldwide, so it is meaningful to see many strands of the Jewish community coalesce to denounce the attacks.

And there has been another profound blessing in the wake of the hateful graffiti: the outpouring of support that Jews have received from many other faith communities in Rhode Island. In a state where the Jewish population is so small, the help and solidarity of neighbors is essential.

In the hours that followed the discovery of the swastika defacing the Kollel sign at Congregation Ohawe Sholam in Pawtucket, there were statements condemning the incidents from Christian and Muslim organizations and clergy. Similarly, when anti-Semitic graffiti was found at the Cranston Stadium sports complex, there was rapid condemnation from both Jews and non-Jews. In both cases, when Jewish leaders faced the media to talk about the incidents, they were not alone - they were accompanied by leaders from a range of religions.

That other religious leaders speak up counts a great deal, and what they say can make the entire community stronger. For instance, Bishop Thomas J. Tobin said, "There is no possible justification for this awful misdeed, and no room for it in our community. The members of the Catholic Church in Rhode Island stand in spiritual solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters, now and always." That statement brought great comfort, as did the words of Imam Farid Ansari, president of the Muslim American Dawah Center, in Providence, and of the R.I. Council for Muslim Advancement: "There's a verse in the Quran that talks about whenever houses of worship are attacked, we should be supportive of one another."

Such statements, as well as those from Episcopal leaders and others, not only are supportive of Jews but also put society on notice that there is unity against such abhorrent behavior. When there is powerful consensus in society, institutions such as police and courts, as well as people, are pushed to respond more strongly.

This kind of support in our multi-faith society and the relationships behind it does not develop overnight. A number of far-sighted people in the R.I. Jewish community, and other local communities, have spent decades growing these bonds, and many constructive initiatives have sprung from these efforts in recent years: focusing on the long-term has paid off.

Some of the multi-faith efforts have been based on the spiritual or on doctrine. At Providence College, scholars such as Prof. Arthur Urbano have made important advances in Catholic-Jewish dialogue. Rhode Island rabbis and other Jewish leaders have been reaching out to Muslim colleagues for some time, and this year alone has seen a vigil for Muslim refugees and immigrants and a collaborative performance by Muslim and Jewish fifth-graders. There are also other successful relationships, such as a multi-faith memorial for victims of gun violence.

One of the important lessons of multi-faith work is that it often grows from grassroots and one-on-one interactions. Everyone has the possibility of making a difference. An act as personal as supporting a neighbor of another faith if he or she has a crisis or pressing need can be pivotal. So can going to another faith's service to learn more and be supportive, or joining a multi-faith group or campaign.

Religious tolerance is a bedrock Rhode Island tradition going all the way back to Roger Williams' actions here nearly 400 years ago. It is not fanciful to think that Williams would have spoken out at our current-day news conferences after blights such as anti-Semitic graffiti.

Jews came onto the scene in Rhode Island in about 1658, a couple of decades after Williams. While much has changed in the state in the intervening centuries, the imperative to work for greater tolerance through multi-faith cooperation remains urgent.

NOEL RUBINTON is a consultant and writer based in Providence.

Shul versus shul: No cause for celebration

BY GEORGE M. GOODWIN

Unlike many members of Newport's Jeshuat Israel, known far and wide as "Touro Synagogue," I cannot delight in Judge John J. McConnell's recent unequivocal decision in support of the plaintiff. Not only did he determine that Jeshuat Israel was the rightful owner of a disputed set of 18th-century *rimmonim* crafted by the New York silversmith, Myer Myers; the judge dissolved the relationship that had united two of America's most remarkable congregations. Yes, McConnell rewrote a unique and precious chapter in our never-ending Jewish past.

Although I had attended the trial's nine days of testimony and closing arguments in Rhode Island's federal district court and had studied highlights of the case's thousands of pages of documents, I was at a loss to understand many of the complex legal issues that were vigorously contested. I do know, however, that, for the sake of *Klal Yisrael* (Jewish unity), this case should never have been brought to trial.

Aware of the possible damage to both sides, Shearith Israel, North America's mother Jewish congregation, had proposed arbitration by a *bet din* (rabbinic court), but Jeshuat Israel rejected such a conciliatory step. A trial could generate unfavorable publicity for both sides, and a gentile judge could be placed in an extremely awkward situation.

I do believe that McConnell did his best to be even-handed. His 106-page decision, based on a deep immersion in American Jewish history and a plethora of legal precedents, was the equivalent of a lengthy master's thesis or a pithy dissertation.

But as a historian – not a lawyer – I believe that his decision was flawed. Jeshuat Israel's brash claim to the *rimmonim's* ownership was based almost entirely on the fact that, having been returned by Shearith Israel, they were in its possession since 1894. But the plaintiff did not call even one expert witness to help illuminate the documentary record, which showed that the *rimmonim* had been in Newport as early as 1780.

Testimony further revealed that, when Jeshuat Israel's lay leaders approached Christie's auction house to find a buyer for the *rimmonim*, they did not conduct a study of their provenance, and they did not urge or even request Christie's to do so. Shockingly, Touro's lay leaders agreed to the auction house's insistence on confidentiality, keeping Shearith Israel and other Jewish institutions in the dark about the proposed sale. Such self-imposed secrecy was intended to speed the *rimmonim's* sale and maximize profits. Thus, I reject McConnell's conclusion that two of Touro's officers made "credible" and "compelling" witnesses.

During the trial, Shearith Israel did call two expert witnesses. Unfortunately, the first, Dr. Vivian B. Mann, a longtime curator at New York's Jewish Museum and a renowned authority on Jewish art, made a far from favorable impression. When cross-examined in a withering manner, she was unable to give concise answers, interjected some unsolicited comments, and showed a faulty understanding of some of Shearith Israel's 18th-century financial records. But McConnell, who characterized Mann as a "zealot" and a "not credible" witness, was unable or unwilling to understand some of her more nuanced points. For example, when preparing exhibition catalogs, curators are not required to reaffirm an object's provenance.

> **"But as a historian – not a lawyer – I believe that his decision was flawed."**

Shearith Israel's second expert witness, Linford Fisher, a professor of colonial religious history at Brown University, added little to the record. Yet, neither side called Dr. David L. Barquist, a curator at the Philadelphia Museum of Art who is the leading Myers scholar.

Touro Synagogue's four witnesses, all current or former board members, bemoaned the congregation's financial condition and blamed Shearith Israel's lay leaders, as trustees of the synagogue's building, contents and land, for lackadaisical or incompetent supervision. Yes, the New York congregation could have played a far more active role – beyond accepting $1 for annual rent and approving the hiring of Orthodox rabbis – but Jeshuat Israel's leaders never acknowledged that Shearith Israel had facilitated the gift of a pair of Myers *rimmonim* to their congregation in 1892. Furthermore, neither congregation asked its sister to account for a true *shanda* – the secretive sale of the famed and priceless Washington letter to the Morris Morgenstern Foundation in 1949 for a meager sum.

Preoccupied with its own financial worries, Shearith Israel claimed that it could not offer Jeshuat Israel much assistance. Nevertheless, the defense did recently offer to provide the plaintiff with a stream of annual allocations.

Shearith Israel's legal team, led by the congregation's nimble and fierce *parnas*, insisted that Touro was nothing more than its tenant. Indeed, as Touro leaders sought McConnell's permission to dissolve the trusteeship that had been established with Shearith Israel in the early 19th century, the New York congregation argued to evict its sister from America's oldest synagogue in favor of some unknown congregation that would better exemplify Newport Jewry.

McConnell rejected Shearith Israel's tenuous claim to outright ownership of Touro Synagogue, its contents and land. Explaining that a trustee could not harbor animosity toward, nor inflame its relationship with, a beneficiary, he decided that Jeshuat Israel's leaders were entitled to serve as their own trustees. In effect, McConnell granted a divorce to a couple with irreconcilable differences – or differences that a civil official was unauthorized to reconcile.

But clearly Touro leaders have failed to understand or accept a tenant of Jewish law, *tashmishei kedushah* (implements of holiness), established by Maimonides. Such Torah decorations as *rimmonim* can be sold only to purchase replacements or, under dire circumstances, to ransom hostages or aid the poor.

The recently concluded trial is also deeply upsetting because of its failure to acknowledge a profound debt that each congregation owes its sister. Jeshuat Israel would never have been allowed to use Touro Synagogue – let alone grow and thrive – without Shearith Israel's permission, encouragement and protection. Likewise, Shearith Israel would have remained merely the custodian of a cherished but empty building without a new congregation that restored and replenished its holiness.

There is sufficient reason to believe that – some day – both congregations may again need one other. Through necessity or divine guidance, each could be strengthened by the legacy that once brought and bound them together.

GEORGE GOODWIN, a member of Temple Beth-El in Providence and a specialist in synagogue architecture, wrote a lengthy article about *rimmonim* in the 2015 issue of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes.

Ongoing

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

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

Through June 30

Three Inspiring Artists. Gallery at Temple Habonim. Award-winning artist Richard Harrington is a juried member of several art organizations as well as a skilled teacher. Barbara Rhian is a signature member of the Rhode Island Water Color Society, and brings new meaning to the medium, using light and color with great experience. Accomplished author and photographer, Shai Afsai has traveled far and wide bringing images and faces of worlds seldom seen. Wednesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment. 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. For information, 401-245-6536. gallery@templehabonim.org.

Friday | June 10

Friday Night Live. 6 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. A musical celebration of Shabbat. Rabbi Aaron Philmus plays guitar accompanied by the Torat Band. There's no cost to attend the service. If you opt to stay for dinner following the services, adults and children over 12 are $20, 12 years and younger are free; family max. is $60. For more information or for dinner reservations, call Stephanie Reinsant at 401-885-6600.

Saturday | June 11

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

Sunday | June 12

Shavuot/Yizkor Service. 9-11 a.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. For more information, contact Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org, or 401-885-6600.

Tuesday | June 14

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Aaron Philmus. 12-1:30 p.m. T's Restaurant, 5600 Post Road, East Greenwich. Join Rabbi Aaron Philmus from Temple Torat Yisrael at T's Restaurant. Everyone is welcome – bring a friend. Participants order from the menu. For more information, contact Stephanie Reinsant at 401-885-6600, or stephanie@toratyisrael.org.

Yoga Classes. 6-7:15 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Led by Jeannine Margolis. All are welcome. Cost $12 for drop ins or $30 for three classes paid in advance. For more information, contact Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org, or 401-885-6600.

Wednesday | June 15

Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island Fifth Annual Meeting. 7-9 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Installation of Mitzi Berkelhammer, incoming chair of the board. Tribute to Sharon Gaines, outgoing chair of the board. Presentation of Leadership Awards. Board Installations: Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, Jewish Federation Foundation and Alliance Realty, Inc. Installing Officer: Rabbi Sarah Mack. Reception follows. For more information, contact Gail Putnam at 401-421-4111, ext. 158, or gputnam@jewishallianceri.org.

JCDSRI Graduation. 10-11:30 a.m.Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Fifth grade graduation ceremony featuring speaker Daniel Karlin, JCDSRI alumnus and quarterback at Classical High School. For more information, contact Eileen Ellis at eellis@jcdsri.org, or 401-751-2470.

Thursday | June 16

West Bay Havurah Walk. 7 p.m. Rocky Point State Park, 130 Rocky Point Ave., Warwick. Reopened in October 2014, Rocky Point State Park now serves as a memory for many Rhode Islanders. Over the 150+ years of the property's existence, it has served as a location for nature trails, a ferry pier, an observation tower, hotels, clambakes, restaurants, swimming pool, rides, games and concerts. As the state's newest coastal state park, adults can enjoy the property where they once made so many memories while younger generations of park-goers can make new ones. Stroll the 2-mile round-trip accessible path and enjoy the cooling bay breezes. Great for children, families and well-behaved dogs on leashes. Invite your friends, and bring water. Free. For more information or to register, contact Mark Sweberg at mark.sweberg@gmail.com or 401-248-5010

PHDS Graduation. 7-8:30 p.m. Providence Hebrew Day School, 450 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Grade 8 commencement exercises. For more information, contact Miriam Esther Weiner at meweiner@phdschool.org or 401-331-5327.

Saturday | June 18

Kids' Night Out: Fun in the Sun. 5-10 p.m. Dwares JCC. Kids' Night Out is a chance for children to spend the evening with their friends in a fun and safe environment...and a great opportunity for parents to have a night out "kid free." Kids' Night Out runs once a month on Saturday evenings. Each month children will be 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, or skochanek@jewishallianceri.org.

(401)j Shabbat in the Park: A Community Event. 1:30 p.m. Lippitt Memorial Park, Hope Street, Providence. Join (401)j at Lippitt Park this summer. Future dates include July 16 and Aug. 13. No RSVP required. Bring Your Own Shabbat Lunch. For more information, contact Erin Moseley at emoseley@jewishallianceri.org, or 401-421-4111, ext. 108.

Sunday | June 19

New England Academy of Torah Graduation. 2-4 p.m. Providence Hebrew Day School, 450 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. New England Academy of Torah is an all-girls high school with 32 students. For more information, contact Peretz Scheinerman at pscheinerman@phdschool.org or 401-331-5327.

Torat Yisrael's Abraham's Tent "Sew-In." 6-9 p.m. Private home. Help "stitch together" communities. No sewing experience necessary. "Sew-in," story circle and potluck with delicious Kosher-Pakistani food. For event location and more information, contact Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org, or 401-885-6600.

Tuesday | June 21

Yoga Classes. 6-7:15 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Led by Jeannine Margolis. All are welcome. Cost $12 for drop ins or $30 for three classes paid in advance. For more information, contact Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org, or 401-885-6600.

Friday | June 24

Temple Torat Yisrael's Beach Shabbat. 6-8 p.m. Goddard Memorial Park, 1095 Ives Road, Warwick. Come experience Kabbalat Shabbat with an informal, interactive family service and lots of great singing at the picnic tables overlooking the water, close to the pavilion. Shabbat service and potluck dairy picnic immediately following the service. For more information, contact Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org, or 401-885-6600.

Temple Habonim's Erev Shabbat Service at the Beach. 6:15-7:15 p.m. 87 Bay Road, Barrington. Join us for Shabbat services at Barrington Beach. For more information, contact Jodi Sullivan at office@templehabonim.org, or 401-245-6536.

Saturday | June 25

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

West Bay Havurah at the R.I. Wind Ensemble Concert. 2:30 p.m. Tockwotton on the Waterfront. 500 Waterfront Drive, East Providence. The Rhode Island Wind Ensemble (RIWE) is a dynamic performing group of more than 40 skilled professional and amateur musicians. Together, they offer a wide repertoire of music: orchestral transcriptions, opera and symphonic pieces, ethnic, contemporary and traditional band repertoire, jazz, musical and movie themes. Come hear our own Havurah member, Denise Berson, as she plays the clarinet as part of this group. Concert is free and open to all. Contact Mark Sweberg at 401-248-5010 to register and to arrange for carpooling.

Sunday | June 26

(401)j PawSox Game & BBQ Tailgate. Tailgate: noon, Game: 1:05 p.m. McCoy Stadium, 1 Columbus Ave., Pawtucket. We bring the food, you bring the drinks, and the PawSox will bring the WIN. (Dietary laws observed.) Cost is $12/ticket. For more information, contact Erin Moseley at 401-421-4111, ext. 108, or emoseley@jewishallianceri.org.

Torat Yisrael's Abraham's Tent "Sew-In." 6-9 p.m. Private home. Help "stitch together" communities. No sewing experience necessary. "Sew-in," story circle and potluck with delicious Kosher-Pakistani food. For event location and more information, contact Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org, or 401-885-6600.

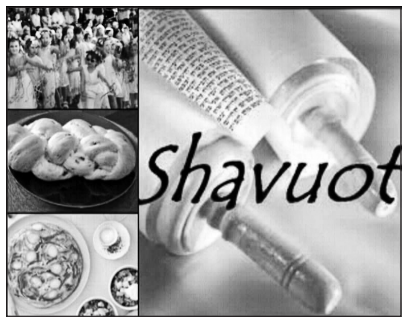
Monday | June 27

Simply Living Jewishly at WBCJC. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Teachers from the West Bay Community Jewish Center religious school present the first in a series, "Simply Living Jewishly." This month's focus is Shabbat. Ages 4 to 8 are invited to celebrate with food, crafts, songs and more. In order to have enough materials for everyone, RSVP to Rabbirichard@Rabbiperlman.com. This event is free, open to the public and meets at 106 Rolfe Square, Cranston.

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

Celebrate *Shavuot* at Chabad House June 12 and 13

On June 12, the *Shavuot* celebration starts with a Torah Learn-a-Thon Study group and discussions from 1 a.m. to dawn. Services begin at 10:45 a.m. The Ten Commandments are read at 11:45 a.m. A children's program and a festive dairy holiday luncheon follows. On June 13, services start at 10:45 a.m., with Yizkor at 11:45 a.m. Evening services begin at 8. For more information, 401-273-7238.





The Keith family

Pride Shabbat focuses on understanding transgender youth

One June 17, Temple Habonim will celebrate its fifth annual LGBTQ Pride Shabbat, and welcome Roz and Richard Keith and their son Hunter to the congregation, They will share the story of Hunter's transition from female to male and how the Keith family has supported their son and brother during the transition.

When he was 14 years old, Hunter came to his mom, Roz, and revealed that he is transgender. Roz said "We knew for a long time that Hunter was struggling. We just never guessed that he was at odds with his gender identity."

The Keiths, cousins of longtime Temple Habonim members Vicki and Cliff Karten, will answer questions about what it means to be transgender and how to love and support a child when you may not understand what he is going through.

The whole family, especially Roz, has become involved in advocacy work for transgender education and awareness. They want to educate and provide transgender youth with the tools they need to be empowered, supported and validated as they transition.

Services begin at 7:30. The temple is at 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. For more information, 401-245-6536.

Steakhouse quality in your own backyard

(Family Features) – Here's a secret: You know those mouth-wateringly delicious steaks you pay top dollar for at steakhouses? You can come pretty close to replicating them in your own backyard with a quality cut from your local grocery store.

The secret? A super-hot grill and a little attention to technique.

Learn how to perfect the art of grilling steak by following these tips from World Champion Pitmaster Chris Lilly. Never again will a jaw-dropping price tag stand between you and a juicy, flavorful steak.

• The secret to grilling a great steak is a good cut of meat. Look at the steak itself; don't just read labels. Look for marbling and an even, bright (not shiny) red color.

• Avoid wet-looking beef, especially if there is noticeable liquid in the tray.

• Consult the butcher. Ask how long the meat has aged since harvest (20-30 days is best).

Whether you're grilling rib eye, filet mignon or a simple sirloin, follow these six simple steps.

1. For steaks, you want the heat as high as possible. Allow grate to heat up and use tongs to brush with an oil-soaked paper towel.

2. Before placing on the grill, allow steak to sit 30 minutes at room temperature. Trim excess fat to avoid flare-ups. Liberally apply salt and pepper. Flip and repeat.

3. Place steak at the hottest part of the grate and sear 2-3 minutes, then flip and repeat. Don't move the steak, as this will prevent optimal grill marks. Close the lid to prevent flare-ups.

4. After searing, move steak to the warm side of the grate, close the lid and continue to cook until desired doneness. You don't need to flip the steak during this indirect grilling stage.

5. Using a digital instant-read meat thermometer, check the temperature of the steak while it's still on the grill (125 degrees F for rare, 135 degrees F medium-rare, 145 degrees F medium, 150 degrees F medium well and 160 degrees F for well done). Remember, steak will continue to cook after it's removed from the grill.



6. Place steak on cutting board, loosely cover with aluminum foil and allow it to rest 5 minutes before serving.

Find more tips for grilling the perfect steak at kingsford.com.

Pepper and Herb-Crusted Flank Steak

Recipe courtesy of Chris Lilly's "Fire & Smoke a Pitmaster's Secrets" on behalf of Kingsford Charcoal

Prep time: 15 minutes, plus 2-12 hours for marinade

Cook time: 10 minutes

Servings: 6

Ingredients

2 flank steaks (approximately 2 pounds each)

1/4 cup thyme, freshly minced

2 tablespoons tarragon, freshly minced

2 tablespoons black pepper, coarsely ground

1 tablespoon rosemary, freshly minced

4 cloves garlic, finely minced

2 teaspoons salt

2 teaspoons brown sugar

2 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil

2 teaspoons soy sauce

1 teaspoon crushed red pepper

In small bowl, combine all wet and dry seasonings and mix, forming coarse paste. Spread paste over both sides of each steak. Wrap each steak individually with plastic wrap and refrigerate 2-12 hours.

Build a charcoal fire for direct grilling. Grill steaks directly over coals, approximately 450-500 degrees F, 5 minutes on each side. Internal temperature of steak should reach 130-135 degrees F for medium rare to medium doneness. Or, use a gas grill per instructions for direct grilling.

For optimum tenderness, cut flank steaks across the grain into 1/4-inch slices and serve.

Sweet or savory bourekas are perfect for *Shavuot*

BY DANIELLE ORON

(The Nosher via JTA) – I'm a cheese and dairy fanatic. So for obvious reasons my favorite holiday is *Shavuot*. This is when spring has sprung and my family makes a whole spread of cheese and dairy-filled foods and desserts. There is always a ton of different cheeses, spreads, breads, fluffy cheesecake, kugel, blintzes and my absolute favorite, bourekas – puff pastry or a simple butter pie dough filled with cheese and either potato, mushrooms or spinach. When you manage to get one hot out of the oven they are heavenly!

So why not have sweet bourekas on the table, too? I'll be taking care of that this year. They'll be filled with a sweetened ricotta cheese and macerated strawberries, since they are in season. No fresh strawberries around? Try using jam in whatever flavor you like.

You can also make these ahead and freeze them, baking one by one for a midnight snack if you really want. The beauty of bourekas is that you can bake them even if they are frozen. I love a good make-ahead recipe when I know I'm making a slew of things during the holidays.



Sweet Ricotta & Strawberry Bourekas

Yield: 12

Ingredients

1 sheet of puff pastry, cut into 3 1/2- to 4-inch squares

3/4 cup finely diced strawberries

1/2 teaspoon sugar

3/4 cup ricotta

1 1/2 tablespoons sugar

1/2 teaspoon vanilla bean paste or vanilla extract

1 egg

Coarse sugar

Directions

Mix the diced strawberries and sugar (1/2 teaspoon) in a small bowl and allow to sit for 5 minutes. In a separate bowl, combine the ricotta with the sugar (1 1/2 tablespoons) and the vanilla bean paste.

Prepare an egg wash by whisking the egg with a splash of water. Line a sheet pan with aluminum foil and coat with a bit of cooking spray.

Fill each square with about 2 teaspoons of ricotta filling and about a teaspoon of strawberries, leaving at least a 1/4-inch border. Brush some egg wash along the edges of the puff pastry and seal them into triangles. Use a fork to press down along the edges. Brush the tops with egg wash and sprinkle with lots of coarse sugar.

Transfer the bourekas to the prepared sheet pan and place in the freezer for at least 30 minutes. At this point you can transfer them to storage bags and keep frozen until you're ready to bake them.

Pre-heat the oven to 400 degrees and bake until golden brown and flaky, about 18-20 minutes.

DANIELLE ORON is a chef, photographer and blogger ("I Will Not Eat Oysters") the owner of a milk and cookies bakery in Toronto, and now a cookbook author. She is Israeli, Moroccan, Canadian and American and was classically trained at the French Culinary Institute.

The Nosher food blog offers a dazzling array of new and classic Jewish recipes and food news, from Europe to Yemen, from challah to shakshuka and beyond. Check it out at www.TheNosher.com.

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FROM PAGE 1

MAHJONG

kept inquiring.

My mother, Faye Zuckerman, plays with a group of six women, and another group I knew of was all women, too. Even on the official national mahjong website, most of the photos feature groups of women. Not that there is anything wrong with this, but I kept wondering, "Was I about to be the first man to be taught this cryptic game?"

A few weeks later, I posted on Facebook, "This is how I spent my Saturday night! Playing mahjong with my mom!" Moments later, I received a comment from Ellen Bensusan: "We play every Tuesday night. You should join us."

Bensusan is a former teacher of mine at Barrington High School. We had stayed in contact via Facebook since I graduated in '09. She is the president of the United Brothers Synagogue, in Bristol.

The following Tuesday, as my mom got ready to head off to her mahjong group, I prepared to leave for mine.

I had never been to the United Brothers Synagogue. I couldn't even picture where it was located.

When I arrived, it looked to me like a hole-in-the-wall house stuck between two bigger buildings. But then my eye was caught by the large illuminated Star of David window – nearly as big as the entire second floor.

The building is older. The sanctuary is beautiful, with a balcony in which the Orthodox women used to sit while the men sat in the first-floor pews. I thought this was ironic, as I was about to play a game that I believed was strictly for women.



PHOTOS | SETH CHITWOOD

The mahjong players at United Brothers Synagogue in Bristol stop for a group shot.

However, as I sat down to start, a married couple arrived, followed by two men. The next thing I knew, there were at least six men getting ready to play.

"I think that is what makes our group so unique," Carol Louison said. Louison has been a member of the temple for almost two decades. She was one of the original members of the mahjong group, along with Ronnee Wasserman.

"We got together one Tuesday night, and they taught us, and we liked it," Bensusan remembered. "We were going to do it once a month, but we thought that we couldn't learn fast enough. By the time you get back, you forgot what you learned. So we started doing it every week. And the rest is history."

The group, which started with six players, had jumped to 16 by the end of the first year.

"I think the interesting thing about our group is that we do have men," Louison said.

Bensusan's husband, Rick, said, "I go for the socialization and seeing friends. The game [also] challenges my brain, which helps keep me active."

Another man, Chris Menton, commented, "Old friends suggested it to be a fun activity. I enjoy the high levels of reflection and activity."

Social activities are very important for this synagogue, which only holds services once a month.

"This way, the community comes together more often. It's about community and friendship," Bensusan said. "This temple is about a community of friends that like to get together and do things together. We see each other every week, which is nice."

I was flabbergasted by the number of men in the room (and so was my mom when I told her later that night). But, at the end of the day, what I like about United Brothers Synagogue's mahjong group isn't just the male players, but the strong bond of the congregants. Everyone knows each other – women, men, even entire families – and they clearly enjoy one another's company.

Since October, when I was invited to play with the group, I've tried not to miss a single Tuesday night. They collect a dollar from each player every week to put toward an end-of-the-year mahjong party, and then donate the remaining amount to a charity.

Every week, the snack table is full of homemade desserts. Players rotate between tables so they get to play with different people – there are no cliques.



Ellen Bensusan

And the competition is friendly, it's all just fun.

So, even though I mispronounced it, I will never regret asking my mother, "What is this mahjong?"

The United Brothers Synagogue is located at 205 High St., in Bristol. The congregation welcomes new members, as well as mahjong players.

For more information, call 401-253-3460.

SETH CHITWOOD is the creative director of the production company Angelwood Pictures (angelwoodpictures.com). He recently won a 2016 LA Web Series Festival for Best Drama Series ("Family Problems"). He is a film studies and theater performance major from Rhode Island College.

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as of May 20, 2016

Great Father's Day gifts for outdoor dads

(StatePoint) – Does Dad love the great outdoors? Show you care this Father's Day by helping him gear up for upcoming adventures.

There are many different gift options for outdoor dads, whether he's a hiker, angler or grill master.

Camping and Hiking

Help Dad avoid dull blades far away from home with a portable sharpener. Those from Smith's Consumer Products are lightweight, compact and durable. They feature a coarse slot to give a new, sharp edge on dull or damaged blades, and a fine slot for regular edge maintenance, as well as a fold-out, tapered diamond rod to sharpen serrations. The brand's new model, the Pocket Pal X2 Sharpener and Outdoors Tool, helps campers pack light, as it also features several outdoor essentials in its compact frame – a fire starter, compass, LED light and signal whistle.

"It's a must-have tool for backpackers, hikers, campers and outdoor sports enthusiasts," says Russell Cowen, marketing manager for sporting goods and hardware at Smith's Consumer Products.

Fishing

Ensure Dad's next fishing trip is smooth sailing. A combination tool, such as the JIFF-FISH Knife Sharpener and Fishing Tool, will help him keep a sharp edge on his fillet knife, pocket knife and hooks, as well as weigh and measure his catch.

It features preset carbide blades for consistent knife sharpening results every time, as well as multiple hook sharpening grooves, a weight scale, pen and retractable measuring tape.

Grilling

When it comes to grilling, Dad may have all the basics, but innovative tools can improve his grilling game significantly. For example, Fire Wire is a flexible skewer that holds twice as much as traditional skewers. And because they remain cool to the touch, they can be turned or removed from the grill without other tools.



They even allow you to marinate foods right on the wire inside a plastic bag or bowl, without having to handle them numerous times. To learn more, visit FireWireGrilling.com.

Whether Dad is catching dinner, grilling it, or just getting away from it all, Father's Day is the perfect time to make sure he's well-prepared for the task.

FROM PAGE 1

FATHER

The passage, she says, serves as a metaphor for the life lessons that a father must teach his children.

[The passage is teaching] "a love of learning, how to create meaningful relationships, how to be productive and contributing in the world, and the practical skills that one needs every day to survive. I think of that as resilience.

Teaching him how to stay afloat when things get tough."

"The best model of parenting I know is my husband, David, who exhibits patience to no end with his children and himself," she said, before adding "and with me!"

And the ability to work with your partner – or in another kind of child-rearing team – is an essential component to fatherhood, says Rabbi Marc Mandel, a father of six and is the rabbi of Congregation Jeshuat Israel at Touro Synagogue in Newport.

"I think it's almost implicit in Proverbs," says Mandel as he explains that the use of the word "parents" as opposed to "parent" is intentional. "Proverbs says that children should listen to their parents – plural – it has to be a joint effort."

Modern technology, he says, has created a gap between children and their parents, so one must be thick-skinned in child-rearing. And in addressing the current increase in single-parent homes, Mandel says it's OK to reach out to others outside the family for help.

"It's very tough to do it on your own. Things are so complicated today; you have to work in a team," says Mandel. "You have to find reinforcements to help. [Raising children] doesn't have to be in the traditional way."

Rabbi Andy Klein of Temple Habonim in Barrington has no children, but he has worked with many families who have them as well as directly with children.

"I'm not a parent, but I see lots of kids. I've seen lots of different kinds of parenting, and I'm sort of in awe," he says. "It must be very difficult to know where that line is between helping them and protecting them."

He shared a story told by a mother-of-the-bride at a wedding where he had officiated recently. The story, which was about the father's reaction when the daughter was born, told of the importance of acknowledging your child's independence. Klein was the second rabbi who brought up the Talmud passage about teaching your children to swim.

"When the mom was holding the baby," said Klein, "the dad came up and looked and he said '… some day, some wonderful person is going to come along and kiss those precious lips.' " The mother, Klein said, continued: "That day is today. You're getting married and this wonderful person has come along."

"From the very beginning," said Klein, shifting away from the story and into his interpretation of fatherhood, "he knew this child was not his property. This child was not going to stay a child forever. He knew he had a responsibility to raise this adult."

And then the swimming passage re-surfaced.

"In the Talmud, it says a parent is required to teach your child to swim," said Klein. "Go out there and teach your children to be independent. Our tradition is rich in teaching about making your children strong and independent."

It seems that being a good father in Judaism is about fostering independence and resilience. Considering the stereotypes surrounding the Jewish mother of being a nurturing and ever-supportive parent, perhaps it's a good counterbalance that makes for the perfect parenting team.

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

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In honor and memory of my father – and all fathers

Ever since I was a little girl, I felt a special closeness to my father. We always understood each other, even though I disagreed with some of his observations and interpretations of the vicissitudes of life, and he with mine.



PATRICIA RASKIN

I remember the wisdom my father offered me from his years in medicine, his Hebrew teachings and his own life experiences. As a guest on my radio show one Father's Day, he pointed out that the Bible says, "Thou shalt teach it diligently unto thy children," which, he said, "means to teach them how to live as decent human beings."

The following is an excerpt adapted from my book, "Pathfinding," which has many stories told to me by my father.

Upon reflecting on being a father as I was a child he said, "When I look back on those early years, I remember how fortunate I was to be able to spend the time I could with you. I had just gotten out of the military service. I practiced dentistry … and set up an office in our home. You were my firstborn. I wasn't going to miss those early years. I always did my part in raising you, playing with you and nurturing you."

Then my father shared a story from his childhood with me:

"I had earned nine dollars one morning and thought I'd celebrate my success by going to a movie. Movies only cost twenty-five cents back then. The nine dollars would probably be the equivalent of a couple of hundred dollars today. I enjoyed the movie, but when I got home, I realized I had lost my wallet. I ran back to the movie theater, but my wallet was gone. I was heartbroken. Times were tough and my mother needed the money.

*"The next day the local druggist called and told me someone had found my wallet. Unfortunately, when I retrieved it, the money was gone. I felt cheated a second time. To this day, I remember my mother's attempts to console me. She said "*Zunela *[a diminutive Yiddish expression for son], don't be sad. As much as we need the money, perhaps the person who took it needs it more than we do." I have often thought about the mitzvahs my mother gave me on that occasion and on many occasions to follow. Her words have stayed with me all of these years."*

Now that my father has passed, I am so glad that I had the opportunity to capture this story and others in my book. It is now part of his legacy.

Happy Fathers' Day, Dad, and to all fathers past, present and future.

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

On June 19, let's acknowledge all kinds of fathers

BY PEG BOYLE



In 1924, an illustrated advertisement for Father's Day in The New York Times read: "Dad's usually so busy providing luxuries for his family that he hasn't had time to look after his own necessities. And he does need ties – every man does. Surprise him on Sunday morning with a couple of good-looking neckties."

Father's Day seems to have been around forever, but it wasn't until 1966 that President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers and designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Six years later, in 1972, the day was made a permanent national holiday when President Richard Nixon signed it into law.

Now, the third Sunday in June is when we express our gratitude for our dads, but also other men in our lives – stepfathers, adoptive and foster dads, grandfathers, even the uncles, brothers and male mentors who have played a role in our lives.

Father's Day is particularly poignant to those of us in the adoption community, as we take time to affirm that it is not biology that makes a parent, but love and attention.

We are all shaped to some extent by the presence or absence of our fathers, by how they choose to act, by their competence and their incompetence.

In 1976, my own father, James Boyle, wrote a letter to me on the occasion of my high school graduation. What I cherish about this now tattered piece of paper is the way my father acknowledged his shortcomings as a parent. He wrote, "I know that you will lead a good and decent life, but sometimes I feel that I have failed to set the examples for you that I have wanted to, but that was because of my personal weaknesses and not because I didn't love you."

Sadly, I know that he continued to worry about the places where he fell short as a parent until his death in 2009.

On this Father's Day, I offer my father the wisdom of the consummate dad, Fred Rogers, who observed: "Some days, doing the best we can may still fall short of what we would like to be able to do, but life isn't perfect – on any front – and doing what we can with what we have is the most we should expect of ourselves or anyone else."

On this third Sunday of June, let's acknowledge all kinds of fathers, regardless of their successes or shortcomings.

PEG BOYLE, LICSW, is the Adoption Options coordinator at Jewish Family Service of Rhode Island.

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Sunday, June 26

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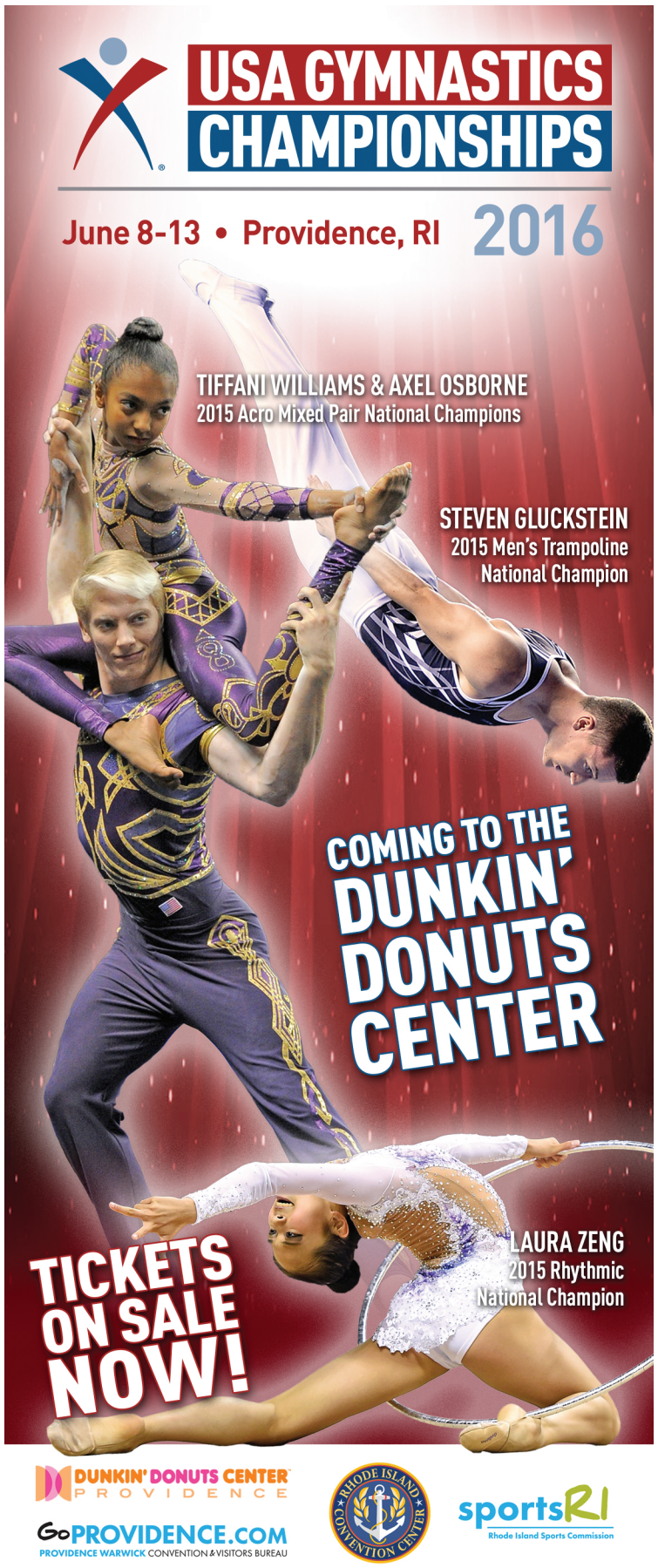
The featured speaker is Rabbi Ethan Adler. The Home has been responding to the needs of the community for over 90 years, and your support will ensure that we will be ready to serve the generations to come.

For more information, or to be sent an invitation, please call Paula Romines at (508) 679-6172.

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Summer *shaliach* Noam Spector arrives in Rhode Island

A conversation shaliach to shaliach

BY GILOR MESHULAM



While in the IDF, Noam Spector worked with children, here doing theater games.

Every summer, the Rhode Island community is privileged to welcome *shlichim* (emissaries) coming from all over Israel to our local camps – JORI in Wakefield and J-Camp at the Dwares JCC in Providence. They arrive as a part of a larger delegation, consisting of hundreds of Israelis who come with care, dedication and passion for exposing Israel to people abroad, specifically those in Jewish communities.

Becoming a *shaliach* is not an easy process. For me, as a long-term *shaliach*, it took several evaluation phases. For summer *shlichim*, it is a bit shorter. Nevertheless, out of thousands, only hundreds are picked. Becoming a representative for the state of Israel is not an easy job.

Last week, I called our new J-Camp *shaliach*, Noam Spector.

Noam is 21 years old, she has an older sister, and is from the small city of Modi'in, about 30 minutes outside of Jerusalem.

As Noam and I talked, I could hear the excitement in her voice. She told me she doesn't know what to expect, and that she can't wait to get here, especially after the *shlichim* training session in April.

During that training session, the *shlichim* receive guidance in working with children of all ages – including songs, activities, discussions and games. They also have time to create their own activities.

I asked Noam about her plans for the kids, and if she prepared something for them. She replied: "I started preparing activities weeks ago. From all sorts and all kinds." Noam also expressed her great passion for theater – and that's what she's excited about the most. She wants to use her abilities and passions to expose the children in our camp to theater – with an Israeli theme – whether it's through songs, improvisation workshops or just plays.

I asked Noam about her previous experience with children. Do you have any? She replied with a definitive yes. As a soldier in the IDF, Noam worked with children in elementary schools in the periphery and with *Olim Chadashim* (new immigrants). She would teach, play and do activities – usually all by herself. "This role, in the army, is very unique," Noam explained. "We're required to be independent, initiative and creative." I told her that was very similar to our camp.

I told Noam that our community here in R.I. is very excited to welcome her. She told me that she is very excited to be living with different members of the community throughout the summer, although a little bit nervous. I told Noam that she has nothing to worry about. People here are waiting with their arms open, and will give her a very warm welcome, like I got – here in Rhode Island.

I then asked Noam the last question – any plans for the weekends? And after the summer camp? Noam replied: "I actually want to get around Rhode Island, and then I would like to see Boston, and New York City, and have a short road trip in the East Coast with another emissary after camp ends – and then have a few weeks in Central America – hiking, touring and catching some sun."

After this hour-and-a-half conversation with Noam, I can positively say we really won a great, motivated, passionate *shaliach*, who, I'm sure, will bring us Israel in the most exciting, fun and educational way possible. Until Noam arrives on June 10, all we have left is to wish her *hatslacha* (success), and *brucha ha'Baha* (welcome)!

GILOR MESHULAM is the Israeli *Shaliach* (Emissary) for the Jewish Alliance. After two years in Rhode Island, he returns to Israel this summer.



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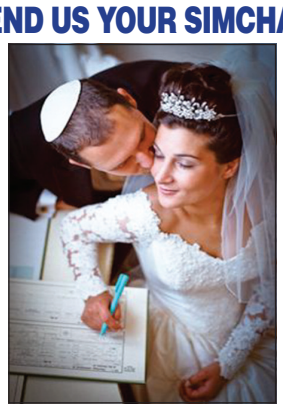
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Temple Beth-El Sisterhood caps year with plaque dedication

It was quite a night for Temple Beth-El's Sisterhood May 25. During an evening of celebration, the officers and board for 2016-2017 were installed. And the Sisterhood Past President's Plaque was dedicated.

"Through this plaque, we honor Sisterhood presidents, as well as our Sisterhood past, present and future," Barbara Brown, chair of the committee, told the gathering at the temple in Providence.

"Our mission was to document our history for future generations, to see and know of our accomplishments, and to validate our existence. It is important to have this timeless representation and everlasting tribute to these special women who have served the Temple Beth-El community," she said.

Nancy Riffle was instrumental in gathering names, she told the group.

"Through this plaque, we honor Sisterhood presidents, as well as our Sisterhood past, present and future ."

"Three years ago, we celebrated Sisterhood's centennial anniversary. We honored our past presidents and the history of our Sisterhood at Temple Beth-El," Brown said.



Dedicating the plaque: (left to right) current president: Cheryl Greenfield; past presidents: Leslie Chazan, Barbara Horovitz Brown, Nancy Riffle, Sherry Cohen, Gaye Belsky Gluck, Nancy Lovett, and Karen Isenberg.

"To have a more permanent reminder of the 100 years plus of our existence, our Sisterhood voted to fund a plaque to hang at our Temple, commemorating our Beth-El Sisterhood Past Presidents.

President Cheryl Greenfield presented the organization's annual report. New officers and board members were installed by Trina Novak, a Women of Reform Judaism board member from the Northeast district. The evening ended with an original song by Greenfield and remarks by past President Karen Isenberg.

Information submitted by Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El.



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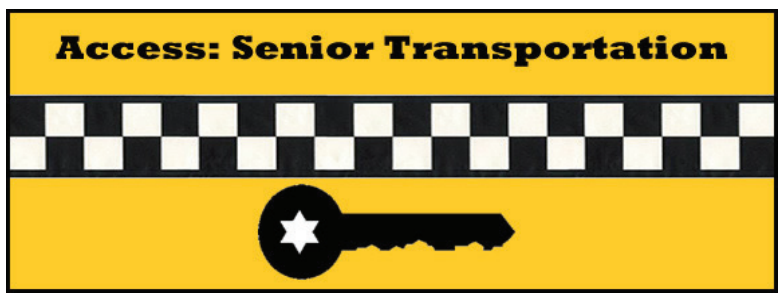
Rhode Island area schools seek part-time Hebrew and/or Judaica teachers, youth advisors and specialists for 2016-2017.

For more information contact Larry Katz at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island at 401.421.4111 ext. 179 or lkatz@jewishallianceri.org.



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PHOTOS | IRVING SCHILD

Acts of kindness

On a recent Sunday morning, about 50 people worked together to beautify the outside of Congregation Ohawe Sholam's building on East Avenue in Pawtucket.

Thanks to donations from Home Depot, Berger Recycling and Stefano's Barber Shop, flowers were planted and shrubbery was trimmed. Volunteers came from many faiths: Muslim, Jewish and Christian, as well as from Moses Brown, Oak Hill and East Greenwich. (See the photo on page 1.)

According to Rabbi Raphie Schochet of the Providence Kollel, words of encouragement as well as donations continue. The Kollel sign will be replaced soon.





Satlow new Bronfman Fellow

Penina Satlow, of Providence, a junior at Classical High School, has received a 2016 Bronfman Fellowship. She is the daughter of Michael and Jacqueline Satlow. Satlow is a board member of Providence USY and a general board member of New England USY. She is also a teen leader in the Providence chapter of HaZamir, the International Jewish High School Choir. At Classical, she is involved in theater and the field hockey team, which won the JV tournament in 2013 and 2014, and was Varsity Division and State Champions in 2014.

Following a competitive application process, the 26 fellows will participate in a transformative five-week program of study and travel in Israel, followed by a rigorous year of programming centered around pluralism, social responsibility and Jewish texts. The fellows study with an esteemed faculty, political and cultural figures in Israel. They also spend a week with a group of Israeli peers who were chosen through a parallel selection process as part of the Israeli Youth Fellowship. Upon their return home, they spearhead Jewish community or social action projects.

Young leaders of note among Fellowship alumni include Daniel Handler, a.k.a. Lemony Snicket, author of the best-selling "Series of Unfortunate Events" children's books; and Jonathan Safran Foer, author of "Everything is Illuminated" and "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" and editor of the "New American Haggadah" (featuring commentary from Lemony Snicket, among others).

The program was founded by Edgar M. Bronfman, a visionary Jewish philanthropist who was CEO of the Seagram Company Ltd. He passed away in December 2013. The new class of fellows will join an alumni network that includes some of today's most exciting Jewish writers, thinkers and leaders. The alumni embody Bronfman's vision that young people who are enriched and energized by their Judaism are poised to contribute not only to Jewish life, but to improving the world.

For more information about Bronfman Fellowships, including how to apply, go to www.bronfman.org.

Author brings Yemenite Jewish culture to 100 local women

BY HILLARY SCHULMAN

Henna, Judaism, and philanthropy: What do these things have in common? They were all part of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's women's event, "Henna House: A Night with Nomi Eve," chaired by Jeanie Charness and Cara Mitnick.

On May 24, just under 100 women from around Rhode Island convened at Temple Beth-El, in Providence, to hear Eve speak about her new book, "Henna House. "

Eve, a professor at Drexel University, took attendees on a journey into Yemenite Jewry while weaving together her tapestry of characters. Her presentation included photographs of traditional Yemenite Jewish bridal garb and explanations of the Yemenite Jewish culture - especially with regard to food. She reminisced about growing up in her Jewish Yemenite aunt's kitchen, which, she said, explained how an Ashkenazi Jew like her wrote a book about Yemenite Jews.

Nomi Eve was preceded by Rick Hirschhaut, the senior director of external relations at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, who explained the work that the JDC is engaged in globally, and specifically in Arab countries. He noted that the partnership between the Jewish Alliance and the JDC helps Jewish communities thrive. In fact, every audience member who paid the $10 cover charge for the event helped support these efforts, as the money will be used to help Jews in Arab countries.



At the event (L to R): Event co-chairs Jeanie Charness and Cara Mitnick, 2016 Annual Campaign Chair Mitzi Berkelhammer, author and speaker Nomi Eve, Alliance Board Chair Sharon Gaines, and JDC Senior Director of External Relations Rick Hirschhaut.

Learning about the JDC's mission of "Rescue, Relief, and Renewal" was particularly relevant at this time since a secret mission that took place in March rescued the remaining Jews in Yemen, bringing them to Israel for a better life.

Mitzi Berkelhammer, vice chair of the Jewish Alliance and incoming chair of the Board of Directors, juxtaposed Hirschhaut's presentation with an overview of what the Alliance accomplishes locally. She specifically spoke of the Living on the Edge Initiative, which aids those in our community who are economically vulnerable. To date, Living on the Edge has helped 1,200 people facing that reality, including 67 people requiring vocational services and 61 seniors in need of transportation.

At the end of the event, attendees were invited to get henna tattoos from local henna artists and taste various spices from Providence's Not Just Spices, located on Hope Street. "Henna House" was also available for purchase, and Nomi Eve signed every copy.

For more information on the Jewish Alliance's Women's Alliance, or the Living on the Edge Initiative, contact Trine Lustig at tlustig@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 223, or Minna Ellison at mellison@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 176. If you or someone you know is in need, please contact the Access Jewish Rhode Island hotline at 401-421-4111, ext. 411.

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

Helen Mirren urges Senate to pass stolen art recovery bill

WASHINGTON (JTA) – Helen Mirren testified to the U.S. Senate about the importance of restoring art stolen by Nazis to its rightful owners.

Mirren, the Oscar-winning British actress, appeared June 7 at a hearing on a bill that would grant claimants more time to reclaim stolen art works.

Mirren said she became steeped in the issue while playing Maria Altmann in the 2015 film "Woman of Gold." Altmann battled the Austrian government for years until in 2004 she recovered works stolen from her family by the Nazis.

"Victims of Nazi theft should not have to demonstrate the boldness and capacity that Maria Altmann had to reclaim what was rightly theirs," Mirren said.

"When the Jewish people were disposed of their art, they lost their heritage," she said. "To have no memories is to have no family."

Mirren was testifying before a joint meeting of the Judiciary Committee's subcommittees on the Constitution and on Oversight, chaired respectively by Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz, both Texas Republicans, who together with Sens. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., are sponsors of the bill.

The bill, introduced in April, would reset the statute of limitations, making it six years from the date that the art in question is identified and located, and from when the claimant has shown evidence of possession of the art. In some cases, defendants were able to avoid restitution because states had statutes of limitations as short as three years.

The full committee's chairman, Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, said during the hearing he would expedite consideration of the bill.

Also testifying at the hearing were a number of experts on stolen art, including Ronald Lauder, the president of the World Jewish Congress and the chairman of the World Jewish Restitution Organization

"Make no mistake, this crime continues to stain the art world," Lauder said, referring to the wholesale theft of Jewish-owned art by the Nazis.

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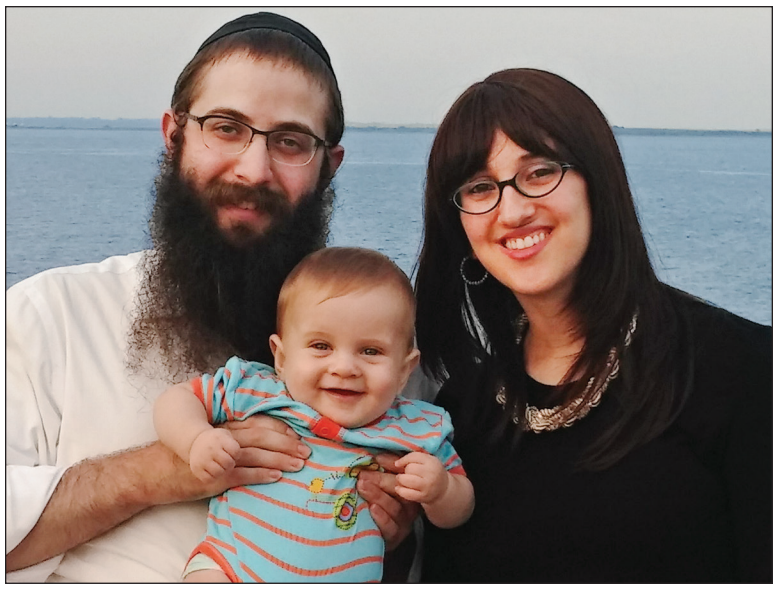
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Chabad House opens in northern Rhode Island



PHOTOS | CHABAD HOUSE OF NORTHERN R.I.

"Purim in Hawaii," fun at Chabad House in northern Rhode Island.



Rabbi Aryeh Laufer, Mushka Laufer and son, Mendel Laufer

Chabad House opens in northern Rhode Island

Rabbi Aryeh Laufer, his wife Mushka, and their son Mendel have recently established the Chabad House of northern R.I. to serve the needs of the Jewish community in the northern part of the state. They want to dispel the myth that there are few Jews in northern Rhode Island.

Many local Jewish residents have heralded the new Chabad center in Lincoln as the beginning of a new era. It's been sheer excitement, and to put it in the words of a Jewish resident of Lincoln, "I hope they won't be leaving soon, we really need them here."

Getting Jewish people together is of primary importance. This past September, even before the official move from Providence to Lincoln, the Laufer family moved into the Hampton Inn and Suites in Smithfield to conduct High Holy Day services. More than 30 people attended. For some, it was their first High Holy Day service in over 40 years.

"Purim in Hawaii," this past March, brought smiles all around. The holiday was celebrated with the traditional *Megillah* reading and a lavish Hawaiian buffet dinner.

Following the inspiration of the Lubavitcher rebbe, the Laufers' work embraces Jews of any level of observance. The Chabad center, one of 3,000 worldwide and the fifth in Rhode Island, imbues a sense of community and offers unique Jewish experiences year-round. Whether classes, holiday celebrations, women's programming, hospital visitations or Shabbat services and dinners, Chabad House of northern R.I. is a community resource for everyone, regardless of background, affiliation or level of observance.

Each Chabad center is supported and governed by the respective local community. To learn more or to get involved, go to www.ChabadNRI.com, email Rabbi Aryeh at rabbi@chabad-nri.com or call 401-499-2574.

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REMEMBER THE PAST

From the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

My father's East Side farm

BY GERALDINE FOSTER

A number of years ago, my friend and colleague Eleanor Horvitz and I wrote two articles for the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association's Notes about farms owned by Jewish families in Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. We interviewed family members and friends who remembered the original farmers. We spoke to people who spent vacations on these farms – taking in summer boarders provided an additional source of income for farmers and offered an affordable experience for city folk. We wrote about group outings that were hosted by farm families.

One farm we did not mention was my father's farm, and therein lies my story.

My father, Bernard Segal (better known as Beryl), wore many hats. Although an immigrant, he mastered English, majored in biology at Brown University, and earned a master's degree in entomology from the University of Rochester and a degree from the Rhode Island College of Pharmacy, all while supporting his wife and child.

For three decades, Beryl Segal was The Miriam Hospital's chief pharmacist. He visited the floors every day and was often hailed along the way by patients needing a word of cheer, a visit, or a *schmooze*.

To children at the Summit Avenue School, he was the man in the white uniform who appeared at recess time to see his grandchildren and greet their classmates, who rushed to the fence, shouting, "Hi *Zayde*!" when he appeared – until banished by Miss McGwynn, the principal.

He composed poems and stories in Yiddish for children, wrote weekly columns for the Jewish Herald and articles for RIJHA's Notes, and was, in fact, one of the seven founders of RIJHA.



PHOTO | RIJHA

Beryl Segal at work.

During the week, for several years, he taught bar mitzvah classes at Temple Beth-El, in Providence, and on Saturdays discussed Talmud and Torah with his good friend Rabbi William Braude, until his death.

At heart, however, my father yearned to be a farmer.

The Segal "farm" was located on half of a 52-by-80-foot family lot next to their home on Overhill Road in Providence. A huge flowering cherry tree dominated the other half of the lot. Each spring, my father planted rows of carrots, green beans, tomatoes, scallions, corn and radishes. Each summer he harvested radishes, green beans, a scallion or two, and a few stunted ears of corn.

He refused to build a fence to keep out bunnies and chipmunks. Nor would he use pesticides or artificial fertilizers because they endangered insects. He would say, "When we need food, we can go to a store. Nature's creatures have no markets they can patronize. If they are hungry, let them eat." And they did.

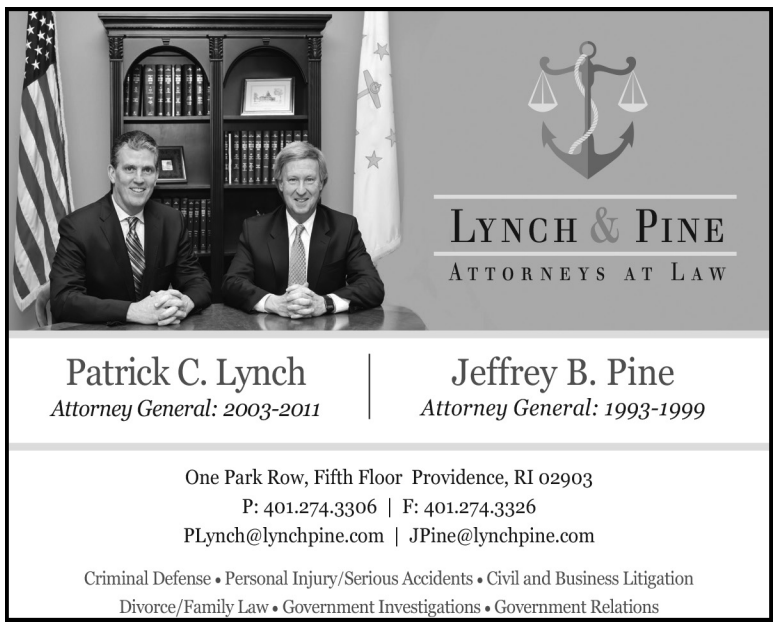
One year the corn was attacked and almost decimated by a small black insect. I called the Department of Agriculture to ask what could be done. How many fields of corn? I was asked. One. Where is this field located? In Providence. Where in Providence?

Was that a note of incredulity I detected in his voice?

When I replied, "On the East Side," the incredulity became anger as he shouted, "On the East Side, NOBODY grows corn!!" And slam went his receiver.

The small black insects had a field day (no pun intended) and all the other insects and the bunnies came to eat their fill. But my father's green beans and radishes, and his few scallions, still flourished. The green beans he passed on, but his radishes and scallions, with a slice of good cissel bread – who could ask for anything more.

GERALDINE S. FOSTER is a past president of R.I. Jewish Historical Association. To comment about this or any RIJHA article, contact RIJHA office at info@rijha.org or 401-331-1360. The RIJHA office and library is now open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to noon and 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., as well as the second Sunday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.





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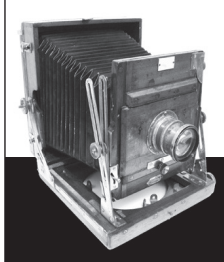
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William Abesh, 94

NEW BEDFORD, MASS. – Dr. William Abesh, husband of Betty Neyman Abesh and son of the late Jacob and Bessie (Portnoy) Abesh, died May 28. He is survived by his daughter, Jane Abesh Meltzer, and her husband, Neil, of Sudbury, Mass.; his son Dr. Daniel Abesh and his wife Jane Eisen Abesh of Cherry Hill, N.J.; grandchildren Jesse, Joseph and his wife Lindsey, and Jonathan Abesh, and Benjamin and Jeffrey Meltzer; his sister Goldie Gitlin; numerous nieces and nephews and cousins; and many friends.



Dr. Abesh graduated from New Bedford High School, Class of 1939. He continued his education at the University of Pennsylvania, where he received a liberal arts degree. He went on to the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, where he graduated in 1946. He became a life member of Alpha Epsilon Pi and was also assistant manager of the wrestling team.

While in dental school, he became a life member of Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity and was in the Army Specialized Training Program, where he was a Private First Class. On graduation, he was appointed First Lieutenant in the Army Dental Corps, and served an assignment in Korea as a Dental Officer in the Army of Occupation. He was later transferred to the Westover Army Air Force Base, where he was promoted to Captain. He was discharged in 1948.

Dr. Abesh opened his dental office in New Bedford on Nash Road, and later moved to Ashley Blvd. He joined the staff of St. Luke's Hospital as a general dentist in Oct. 1948, and was active in local dental societies. He became a life member of the American Dental Association, the Eureka Lodge of the Masons, the Wamsutta Lodge and the Aleppo Temple of Shriners.

He had been an active member of Tifereth Israel Congregation since 1952, and a board member of the Jewish Federation and of the Jewish Convalescent Home. He was also a member of the Allendale Country Club. In addition, he served as Commander of Post 154 of the Jewish War Veterans of America, worked for many charitable organizations, and was happily married for more than 64 years.

Donations may be made to the Jewish Convalescent Center and to Tifereth Israel Congregation.

Areen Lipsitz, 83

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Areen Lipsitz died June 3 at Rhode Island Hospital. She was the wife of the late Abram Lipsitz and companion of Albert Algeni. Born in Baltimore, a daughter of the late Milton and Rose (Birdwise) Kahn, she had lived in Warwick for more than 40 years, previously living in North Kingstown. She was a self-employed jewelry manufacturer, retiring in 1996. Areen was a Korean Conflict Air Force veteran, serving in the European Theatre. She was a chairman of the board for the Fashion Jewelry Association of America and a member of the MJSA.



She was the mother of Richard Lipsitz and his wife, Anne, of North Kingstown, grandmother of Amy and Emily and adored friend of Josefina Cordeiro.

Contributions may be made to the Claudia Adams Barr Program c/o Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, 450 Brookline Ave., Boston, Mass. 02215.

Florence Novick, 97

NEW BEDFORD, MASS. – Florence V. (Goldstein Udall) Novick died on June 3 after a brief illness. She was the wife of the late Fred Udall and the widow of Edward B. Novick.



Born in Asbury Park, N.J., she was the daughter of the late Joseph Goldstein and Lillian Goldstein Caplan. She graduated from Asbury Park High School.

A graduate of the Columbia University School of Dental Hygiene, she practiced dental hygiene and lived in New York City. During World War II she was a Red Cross volunteer nurse's aide at several Manhattan hospitals and was proud to be associated with Sydenham Hospital, one of the first racially-integrated hospitals.

Settling in New Bedford in 1960, she completed a bachelor's degree in sociology at Southeastern Massachusetts University and an M.Ed at Bridgewater State College. In 1970 she joined the faculty of the newly formed Bristol Community College Dental Hygiene program, retiring in 1986.

Always devoted to classical music and art, she studied at the Swain School of Design. She and her husband, Edward, were active in the former Friends of Music. She was a member of Tifereth Israel Congregation and its Sisterhood, the New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home and numerous other community organizations. She was most involved in the Friends of Buttonwood Park, a group formed in 1987 to preserve the Frederick Law Olmsted concept.

Survivors include her son, Abraham Novick and his wife Ling of Baltimore; her daughter, Martha Udall Hammel, and her husband Lee, of Framingham; and two grandchildren, Ben Novick and Olivia Novick, both of Baltimore. She was the sister of the late Ada Traub and Aaron Goldstein.

Donations may be made to Tifereth Israel Congregation, 145 Brownell Ave., New Bedford Mass. 02740, or The Friends of Buttonwood Park, P.O. Box 2011, New Bedford, Mass. 02741.

Dolores Silverstein, 93

EL PASO, TEXAS – Dolores Oresman Silverstein died on May 21. She was born on March 11, 1923, in New York City to Samuel and Martha Oresman. Eventually moving to Providence, she was a graduate of Hope High School. She attended Goucher College and graduated from Bryn Mawr College on D-Day.



Prior to her recent move to El Paso, she was a longtime resident of Hillsboro Beach, Fla. and Narragansett.

She was an adoring grandmother, an accomplished bridge player and an avid traveler. She was active in various clubs and organizations and served as a docent at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Irwin, her sister Roberta and her daughter Joan. She is survived by her brother Richard of Boston; her son Roger and his wife Mary Ann of El Paso; her three grandchildren Will, Hope and Daniel; and her great-grandson Duncan.

Contributions can be made to the Miriam Hospital Women's Association or the Rhode Island School of Design Museum.

Norma Winkler, 87

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Norma (Castellucci) Winkler passed away peacefully on May 28. She was born in North Providence, the daughter of the late Elizabeth (Bernardo) and John W. Castellucci. She and her brother Sonny were the first twins born in Fatima Hospital.



Graduating from school in Boston, she received an RN degree from the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital and continued her studies in dietetics and nutrition.

She was the wife of Neville E. Winkler; they were married for 36 years. A partner in their jewelry business, she became the president of Winkler Group and continued as an advisor for many years.

She was a member of Temple Beth-El for more than 63 years.

She was passionate about the arts, antiquing, travel and music. A former member of the Providence Art Club and board member of Opera Providence, she was a patron to Trinity Repertory Co., PPAC and The Miriam Hospital.

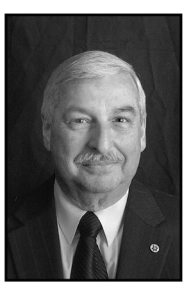
She leaves behind her twin brother John F. Castellucci; devoted daughters Heidi Loomis and Traci Maceroni; son-in-law Bernie Maceroni; grandchildren David, Jenna, Matthew, Amanda and Joshua; nephews Gregg Castellucci and Ira Weinman; dear friend Gloria Malloy; and many relatives and friends.

Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association of R.I., 245 Waterman St. #306, Providence, R.I. 02906 or Hope Hospice & Palliative Care, 1085 N. Main St, Providence, R.I. 02904.

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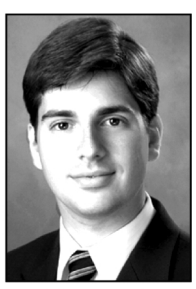
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Jerusalem's high-tech, academia get $220M boost

JTA – Ahead of the 50th anniversary of Israel's reunification of Jerusalem, the Cabinet allocated an extra $220 million for a plan that encourages the city's high-tech industry.

"This is almost NIS 1 billion that we are investing in the development of Jerusalem, in technology and in companies," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said June 2 about the Jubilee Plan, a five-year project initiated last year.

"The face of Jerusalem is changing. There is an interesting technological development here," he said, adding that the Israeli capital is now producing not only scripture but also software.

The announcement was made three days before Jerusalem Day, a national holiday in Israel that marks the capture of eastern Jerusalem by Israel from Jordan in the 1967 Six-Day War. While Israel regards the lands captured in that war in Jerusalem as part of Israel proper, they are widely seen internationally as occupied by Israel.

Approximately 40 percent of the program's budget will go to "strengthening and establishing Jerusalem's status in advanced industries," the plan's outline states, including through grants to Jerusalem-based high-tech firms and cinema and animation enterprises, as well as startup incubation platforms.

Another 10 percent will go toward academia, enabling institutions of higher learning to upgrade their infrastructures and diversify their fields of research and instruction, the plan states. Fifteen percent of the budget will help promote Jerusalem internationally and attract visitors, including participants in international conferences.

And another $42 million, or 19 percent of the budget, will go toward improving infrastructure, with an emphasis on high-tech and industrial hubs, by making them more accessible to public transportation and with bicycle paths and beautifying them with parks. The remainder will become available for a second phase of the program once the initial goals have been reached, the outline says.

Jerusalem, whose 870,000 residents make up 10 percent of Israel's population, is among the nation's poorest cities, according to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics' 2015 report on the city. One-third of its residents are Arabs. Among the Jewish residents, 32 percent describe themselves as haredi Orthodox and 17 percent are modern Orthodox. Only 21 percent define themselves as secular.

Jerusalem's population grew by 20,000 last year over 2014. Of the new Jerusalemites, 19 percent were Jewish immigrants from abroad.

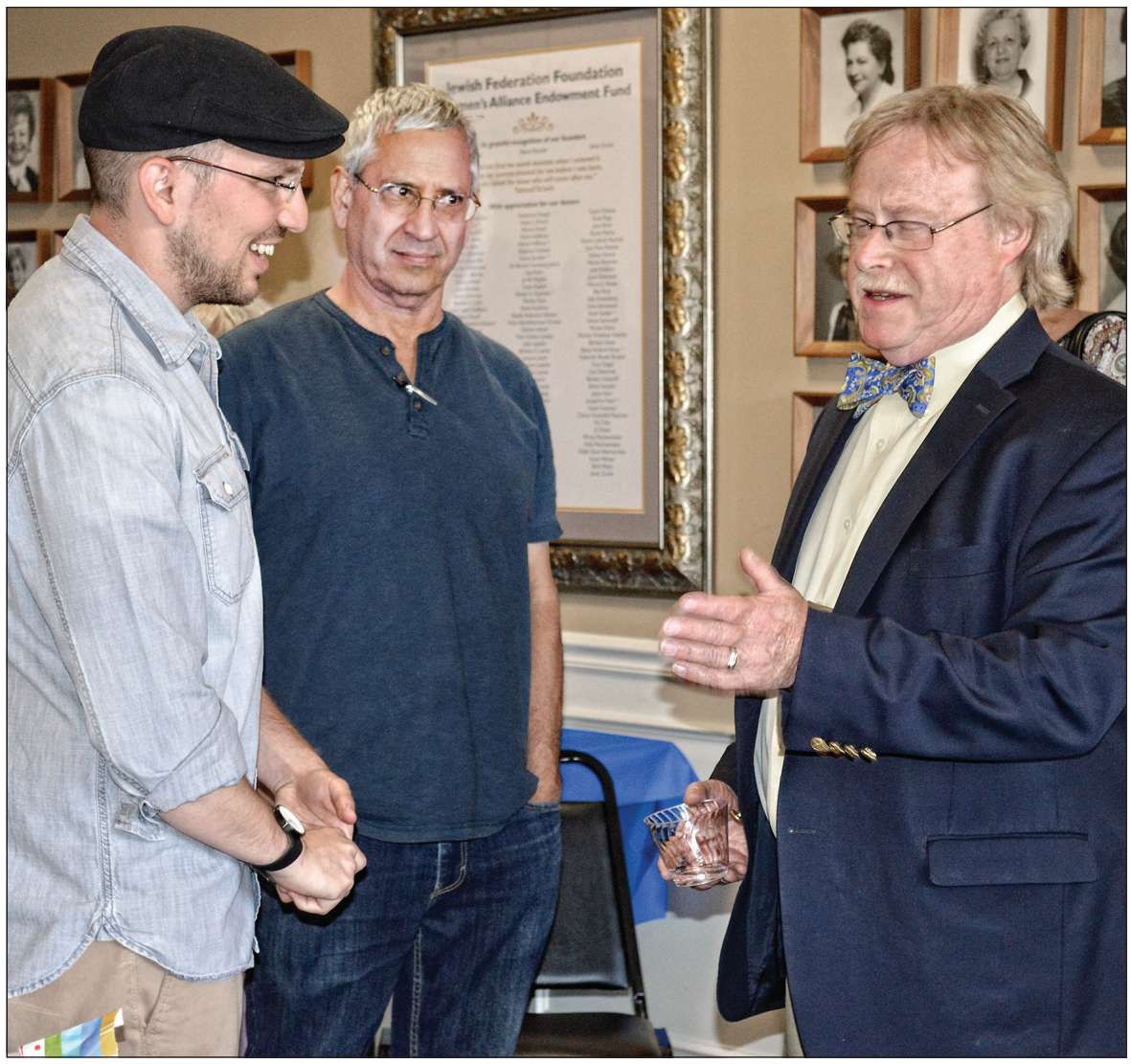


PHOTO | FRAN OSTENDORF

Community farewell

About 50 community members came to say *lehitraot* (goodbye) to Gilor Meshulam at an afternoon gathering on June 2.

Larry Katz, director of Jewish Life and Learning at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, spoke about the Israeli shaliach's successful tenure in Rhode Island, where he was an active member of the community, teaching at area schools and leading community programs. Meshulam expects to return to Israel this summer. He recently became engaged to Rachel Shmookler, whom he met in Providence and who will join him in Israel later in the year.

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Creative construction

The children of the David C. Isenberg Family Early Childhood Center (ECC) donned construction hats on June 3 for Construction Day at the ECC. Despite the cloudy, drizzly weather, the little builders enjoyed outdoor fun including building with recycled boxes and shaving cream mortar, wall painting with chalk paint, hammering and playing in the sandbox with construction vehicles. The temporary hallway between J Fitness and the ECC was spruced up by individual classroom painters. A construction-themed cake was enjoyed by all, thanks to D.F. Pray, general contractor for the Dwares JCC renovation project, which also provided T-shirts and activity books.

– Fran Ostendorf

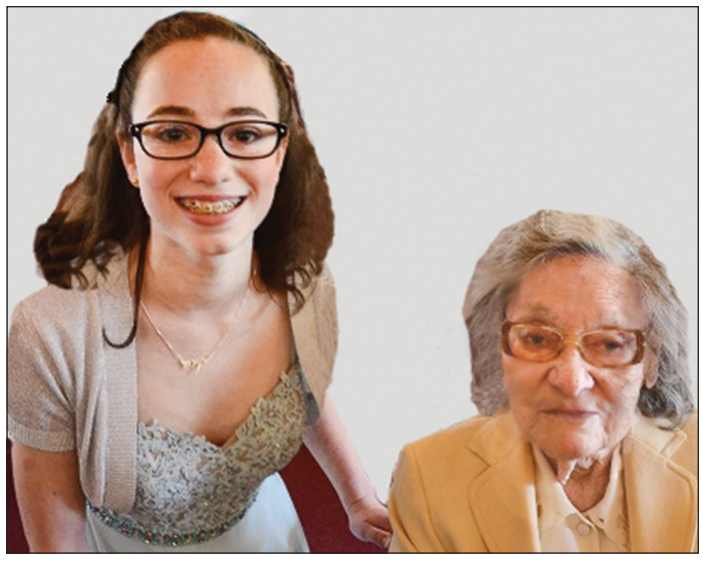






PHOTOS | FRAN OSTENDORF AND BRIAN SULLIVAN

Simcha



Bat Mitzvah Jessica Shana Zenack with her great-grandmother Eva Sheer

BAT MITZVAH – Jessica Shana Zenack, the daughter of Scott and Lisa Zenack and the sister of Stephen Zenack of Mansfield, Massachusetts, became a Bat Mitzvah at Temple Chayai Shalom in Easton, Massachusetts, on May 7. Jessica is named for her late paternal great-grandmother Jean Krohn and her late maternal grandmother Sheila Sheer.

Her grandparents, Neil and Charlotte Sheer of Foxboro, Massachusetts, and Leslie and Daron Zenack of Sharon, Massachusetts, celebrated with her. Jessica is the great-granddaughter of the late Rosalind "GG" and Jerome "GP" Herman of Cranston and Eva Sheer of Providence who participated in the Dor l'dor portion of Jessica's Bat Mitzvah service. She is also the great-granddaughter of the late Leonard Sheer, the late Jean and Daniel Krohn, and the late Ruth Brizel and Sol Zenack.



Jewish summer camps help make Jews for life

BY DEB SALINGER

What does summer enrichment look like for your child? Summer is the perfect time for children to have fun while building the skills, traits, values and relationships that lead to success in life. And Jewish summer camps add an extra dimension to summer camps by building character and forming deep attachments to Judaism.

Character development is a core principle of Judaism. Character is not a finite endowment, but an ever-expanding capacity. Some say that character is built by learning from our mistakes. Yet, parents today often try to protect their children from making mistakes. At Camp JORI, we understand this phenomenon and build character by intentionally pairing a measured risk of failure with the colossal likelihood of success.

Camp counselors and campers maximize the likelihood of success by supporting every challenge and potential achievement with encouraging words and acts. This is what makes the "friends for life" that camp leaders often talk about.

Summer enrichment can also lead to growing Jewishly; studies overwhelming show that children who attend Jewish camp are more involved Jewishly as adults. The reason behind this might lie in attachment theory. Attachment is "a lasting psychological connectedness to others" and there is a recipe for creating it: begin with a safe environment, add fun and play, nurture friendships, value each other's unique contributions, and encourage caring for others. The community that succeeds in this endeavor is rewarded with our lasting emotional attachment. This is the secret sauce of Jewish camp and what makes the experience stick.

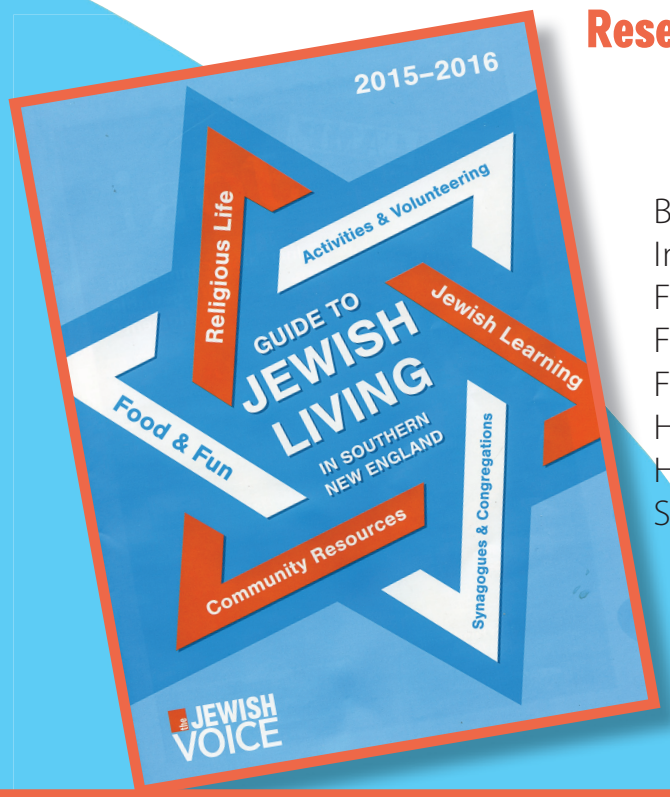
DEB SALINGER is director of Camp JORI, a Kosher overnight and day camp on Worden's Pond in Wakefield. For more information, go to www.campjori.com.

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