the JEWISH VOICE

Volume XXII, Issue XIII | www.thejewishvoice.org
Serving Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts
18 Sivan 5776 | June 24, 2016

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Rhode Island approves anti-boycott legislation

BY JTA WITH JEWISH VOICE STAFF

Rhode Island's General Assembly approved legislation that would prohibit the state from contracting with companies that engage in boycotts of allies of the United States, including Israel.

The Anti-Discrimination in State Contracts Act was passed June 16 by the Rhode Island House in a 65-4 vote and "in concurrence" two days later by the state Senate.

As The Jewish Voice goes to press, the bill is awaiting Gov. Gina Raimondo's expected signature, making the legislation law.

Several states have passed anti-Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) legislation, including Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and South Carolina. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo recently signed an executive order opposing the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel. In total, 21 states have taken up anti-BDS legislation.

The Massachusetts legislature is considering anti-BDS legislation similar to that passed in Rhode Island.

The Rhode Island legislation states: "A public entity shall not enter into a contract with a business to acquire or dispose of supplies, services, information technology, or construction unless the contract includes a representation that the business is not currently engaged in, and an agreement that the business will not during the duration

LEGISLATION | 7



PHOTO | ARIEL BROTHMAN

Sharon Gaines, Susan Froehlich and Mitzi Berkelhammer pause during the meeting.

Meeting the five-year mark

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island held its fifth annual meeting June 15.
Read about it on Page 20.

4 sites, 4 faiths: Newport's new religious tour



Touro Synagogue

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

Most New England Jews know about the historic Touro Synagogue, in Newport. But how much do we know about Newport's other significant religious sites?

That's where the Four Faiths tour comes in. Now in its second year, Four Faiths is a walking tour that visits four of Newport's historically significant religious sites and explains how different religious groups interacted during the city's early days.

Andy Long, outreach coordinator of the United Congregational Church, led a mini-version of the three-hour tour earlier this month for The Jewish Voice.

"We try to tell the story of religious tensions around here in Newport," Long said. The tour, he says, also aims to show how closely intertwined religions were in Newport during a time when that wasn't always the case elsewhere.

The first stop was Touro Synagogue, where we met with Chuck Flippo, the manager of the synagogue's Loeb Visitors Center.

"We try to evoke the past and show that Newport was very important," Flippo said as he led us up a staircase and into a small interactive exhibit. One part of the exhibit is a large touch screen that shows portraits and profiles of early American Jews who lived in the Newport area.

"They look like other Americans at the time," said Flippo, explaining that Newport was a rare community that integrated Jews. "They were

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THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE

"We are judged according to our presumed abilities and potential."

New stamps collage celebrates diversity

The latest collage from the Holocaust Stamps Project is the work of kindergarteners. The completion of "One World Community – Celebrating Our Diversity!", coincides with the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

When kindergarten teacher Heidi Wahl Solivan decided to involve her 5-year-old students in the schoolwide Holocaust Stamps Project, based at Foxborough Regional Charter School, HSP founder Charlotte Sheer created a collage design especially for them. The children's finished artwork serves not only as a visual summary of their year-long study about different community helpers working together, but its message also provides a sharp contrast to the Holocaust mindset that led to the inhumane mistreatment and elimination of people deemed to be different.



The collage was completed May 24. Pictured are (left to right): BryAnn Nickerson (Foxboro, Massachusetts), Chidera Igbobi, (Attleboro, Massachusetts, FRCS graduating class of 2016) and Agustina Aranes (Stoughton, Massachusetts).

With assistance from Solivan and several high school student volunteers, the boys and girls selected, placed and glued hundreds of donated domestic and international stamps into place.

The uniform background, filled with Israeli stamps, suggests that everyone, no matter who they are or where they live, makes their home beneath the same big sky. A blue and green arc at the bottom of the picture represents the Earth, shared by the world's diverse population.

Central to the artwork are three "people," formed from geometric shapes, which provided a link to the children's math work, while symbolically underscoring the importance of recognizing how individual differences make everyone special. Each figure is comprised of stamps bearing the unique faces of people from around the world.

One person holds a balloon made from "dove" and "love" stamps to represent the importance of pursuing peace in our world community. This is a theme that runs throughout each of the 18-by-24-inch pieces in the Holocaust Stamps Project's series of 18 stamps collages. "One World Community – Celebrating Our Diversity!" is the 12th to be finished, and three more are currently in progress.

Since it began in 2009, the Holocaust Stamps Project has received more than 7.3 million cancelled postage stamps (including many from Jewish Voice readers) and continues to accept donations of stamps, in any amount and in any condition, in its mission to amass 11 million, one to honor every Holocaust victim whose life was senselessly thrown away. Stamps may be delivered or sent to HSP, Foxborough Regional Charter School, 131 Central St., Foxboro, MA 02035.

For more information, please visit the HSP website: foxboroughrcs.org/students-families/frcs-holocaust-stamp-project

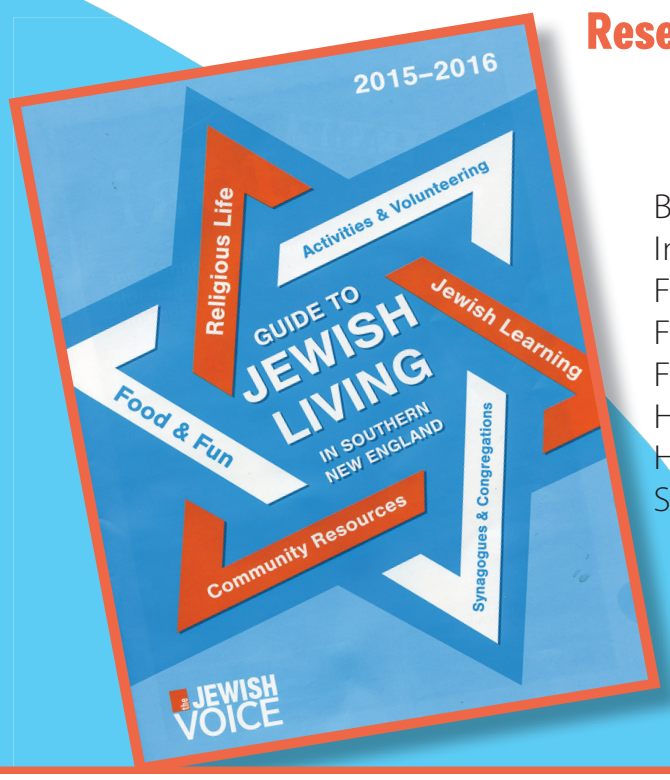
– Submitted by the Holocaust Stamps Project

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‘Putting Life Into Living’ for seniors

BY DIANE DOWIOT

WARWICK – “Putting Life Into Living” was the theme at the Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island’s annual meeting, held on May 26 at The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence.

Yetta and Maurice Glicksman were the honorary chairs of the event. Jeffrey Savit, CEO and president of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, offered greetings, and Rabbi Richard Perlman gave the D’var Torah.

JSA President Jeffrey Padwa, Executive Director Susan Bazar, Funds Management Committee Chair Drew Kaplan, Nominating Committee Chair Jason Siperstein and Women’s Association President Bernice Weiner presented reports.

Vincent Mor, a long-standing member of the JSA Board of Trustees, gave a presentation about long-term care around the world. One issue he highlighted was that seniors are increasingly aging in place and support services are being brought into homes.

Mor also reported that Europe spends as much on social services and support as on medical care. Survival rates are higher in countries that follow this model, he said.

He also spoke about the difficulty of controlling services provided at home and how important it is to spend the money legitimately – for the client as well as the worker. The challenge is balancing the goals of quality service and independence, he said.



PHOTO | MATTHEW ELLSWORTH

JSA officers with Maurice Glicksman Award winner Dr. Jack Nassau, (left to right), Ruby Shalansky, Rabbi Richard Perlman, Bernice Weiner and Jeffrey Padwa.

In Japan, Mor said, robots assist with home care. China, however, is building one nursing home per day as it anticipates its future needs. In India, the birth rate is high, but the elderly population is small – only 7 percent of the population is over the age of 65. Family members typically care for the elderly in India, Mor said.

Padwa said that JSA’s future is bright and its mission of supporting Jewish seniors is critical. He said Task Force subcommittees that were formed last year are now working diligently, and announced that Jewish Eldercare of R.I. (JERI) will be expanding its services.

Padwa presented the Presidential Award to Susan Adler, director of the To Life Adult Day Services Center, JERI, and The Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry.

In her Executive Director’s report, Susan Bazar spoke of JSA’s positive impact on elders through its housing, care and programs. Bazar also mentioned the new limited health licensure that Tamarisk was granted by the Rhode Island Department of Health. This licensure allows for the administration of limited skilled services, such as cardiac and diabetic care, simple wound and ostomy care, ulcer management and more. Tamarisk is the first assisted-living residence in R.I. to receive this designation.

Bazar also noted that Bonnie Sekeres has been promoted to JSA assistant executive director. Sekeres serves on Rhode Island’s Long-term Care Coordinating Council, Leading Age, and the R.I. Housing Resources Commission, and has successfully procured grants, Bazar said. Sekeres’ commitment to preserving the dignity of JSA’s constituencies has been remarkable, she said.

Bazar also announced that long-time board member Martin Dittelman is now an honorary director.

James Galkin presented the Maurice Glicksman Leadership Award and a Kiddush Cup to Dr. Jack Nassau, of Barrington. Nassau graciously accepted this coveted award and reflected on his involvement with the agency; he served as the JSA’s second vice president for five terms and chaired the agency’s To Life Center Oversight Committee.

Fred Franklin, Debbi Gilstein Jaffe and Peter Ziegler were installed as JSA board members, while Padwa was reinstalled as president and Weiner as vice president. Perlman was installed as treasurer and Ruby Shalansky as secretary.

DIANE DOWIOT is the executive assistant at the Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island, 401-351-4750 or www.jsari.org.

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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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Renovation update: A plan in action

BY KARA MARZIALI
kmarziali@jewishalianceri.org

Enthusiasm is just one of the things building around here.

When summer J-Camp at the Jewish Alliance's Dwares JCC began this week, the campers were not deterred by the sight of backhoes and construction fencing. In fact, the major renovations taking place have attracted additional visitors to the building. More and more families are enticed by the notion of a "new and improved" member experience.

Last year's programming updates generated further excitement over the building makeover. While programs were being revamped, other building changes took place: more energy-efficient fixtures were installed, HVAC units were replaced, health clubs were refurbished, new fitness equipment was installed and the indoor pool got a facelift – including a new filtration system. The David C. Isenberg Family Early Childhood Center (ECC) has also been updated, and classrooms have expanded.

"All of these improvements were done with the membership experience in mind," says Dan Hamel chief operating officer for the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. "And I am happy to say that except for some minor bumps here and there, things have been progressing rather smoothly. You can already sense a new level of energy in the building."

The 45-year-old building is in the 15th week of major renovations. Hard-hatted workers continue to upgrade the front lobby, create an ADA-accessible entrance, install a new elevator, and update preschool classrooms. Contractor D.F. Pray schedules construction activities to minimize noise in the ECC and to reduce workday interruptions for staff. Work crews are mindful of other areas where summer campers normally gather, so the inconveniences have been insignificant.

Hamel adds, "Our goal is to continue to offer our members the best experience possible despite the disruption during the construction phase."

Demolition in the front of the building and the lobby areas (both upper and lower) is done. HVAC, plumbing and electrical rerouting will be addressed once other tasks are complete. The focus has shifted to construction of the new front ramp and stairs. Work has also begun on the new elevator pit and new sprinklers in the lobby areas.

Once the ramp and stairs are finished, the new outdoor canopy will be installed, along with a glass front encompassing the entrance. From there, construction will move inside, to the lobbies, including the elevator and new staircases to both the upper and lower lobbies. The renovation team expects the front entrance will be accessible by Labor Day.

Work then will begin on the rear entrance. Other improvements the community can look forward to include a newly renovated social hall. There is a timeline in place and there have not been any setbacks to the schedule. The renovation team is anticipating that the project will be completed by the end of the year.

"The aging building needed to be modernized because we wanted our facility to match the quality of our outstanding programming and be accessible by all community members," said Alliance president and CEO Jeffrey K. Savit. "The renovations to the Dwares JCC are indicative of several transformations within our Jewish community. New circumstances, exchanges of ideas, convergence, inclusion and a modernized community center will bring about an amplified sense of communal well-being, innovation and security across greater Rhode Island. In an increasingly competitive and diverse market, nothing is more important than that."

The Jewish Alliance has now raised more than $6 million of its roughly $6.5 million goal. To support the Dwares JCC Capital Campaign, visit jewishallianceri.org.

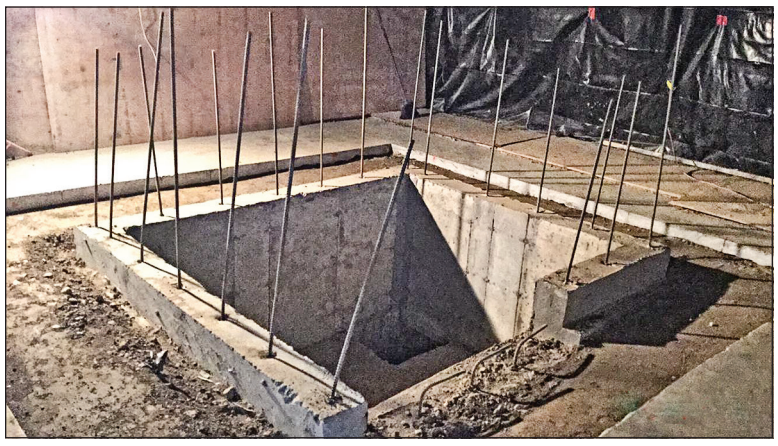


Excavations on the ground floor for the elevator.

PHOTOS | D.F. PRAY



Above, the view from the lobby where the staircase once was. Right, the concrete foundation for the new elevator has been poured.



KARA MARZIALI is the communications director of the Jewish Alliance.

the JEWISH VOICE

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

PERIODICALS Postage paid at Providence, R.I.

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

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Phone: 401-421-4111 • Fax 401-331-7961

MEMBER of the Rhode Island Press Association

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

ADVERTISING: We do not accept advertisements for pork or shellfish. We do not attest to the kashrut of any product or the legitimacy of our advertisers' claims.

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Know your neighbors

BY DANIELLE NEEMAN



PHOTO | DANIELLE NEEMAN

I have always admired the beauty of the impressive mountains on the Jordanian side of the Arava desert. The small villages scattered along the mountains running parallel to Israel's *kibbutzim* are just close enough to see from the Israeli side but unreachable, being separated by an international border. During my time in Israel, I had the unique opportunity to be a part of a meeting between cultures, and to visit one of these villages.

I spent a semester interning at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, an institute consisting of both academic and research programs, where Jordanians, Palestinians, Israelis and other international students work cooperatively on environmental challenges. This unique, eye-opening program also offers an environmental leadership seminar, which includes an "eco lab," an opportunity to apply some of the skills learned in the seminar within the community.

For my eco lab, we traveled, with a group of high school students who lived in the surrounding *kibbutzim*, to a nearby Jordanian village, called Rahme. This village is located directly across from Kibbutz Ketura, home to the Arava Institute; we are only separated by an international border in the short bit of desert between us. This environmental outreach was a way to build a relationship between desert neighbors.

To be honest, I wasn't exactly sure how the day would work. We were visiting a group of students from an all-girls school, many of whom could not speak English, and I was the only leading eco lab member who could not speak Arabic (there were three other members leading this eco lab with me: two Jordanians and an Arab-Israeli).

When we arrived at the village, we were immediately met by our hosts. About 40 women and girls, many of the older women adorned in makeup, heels and *hijabs*, greeted us. While we were not all able to communicate directly through language, our smiles, gestures and intentions conveyed a sense of openness, trust and mutual respect for one another. I found it easiest to communicate with the younger students through humor, facial expressions and teaching one another the names of different objects around us in Arabic, Hebrew and English.

We spent the day in the Arava desert and in the Gulf of Aqaba, a large gulf at the northern tip of the Red Sea, neighboring the Eilat beach. The other students and I led workshops related to the geology of the region and covered several marine science concepts about the Red Sea. We also discussed why it is important to protect and care for our environment.

Through this shared experience, I was lucky to get to know my neighbors. I was also reminded that no matter where we come from, if we let down our guard and open our minds, we can find a common ground that brings us together.

DANIELLE NEEMAN of Providence, attended the Alperin Schechter Day School and Syracuse University. Her trip was partially funded by a grant from the Leonard I. Salmanson Endowment Fund, established at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

Mazel Tov to all our Israel Travelers!

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Hadassah Twersky, *Ulpaniada*

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Temple Beth-El's long-time education director retires

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

Many people on the verge of retirement are more than ready to chuck their job, but that wasn't the case for Anita Steiman.

Steiman, 61, who served as education director at Providence's Temple Beth-El for 25 years, retired in May. She grew up in the temple, and after a brief stint teaching remedial math in Plymouth, Massachusetts, she returned to teach at Beth-El in 1980, eventually rising to the position of education director.

Steiman is both excited and sad about retiring, but is definitely looking forward to seeing "what it's like to have a weekend," since she also taught Sunday school.

"I could never visit my kids on weekends, since I was teaching," says Steiman, whose children live in Massachusetts, New York and Washington, D.C. But now, with her free time, she says she's thinking about volunteering at the Dwares Jewish Community Center, in Providence, where her 7-month-old grandchild is in day care.

With the new grandchild and the retirement of Rabbi Leslie Gutterman, Steiman's longtime colleague and friend, she felt the time was right to step down. However, before doing so, Steiman helped revamp the educational curriculum. She also stayed on to help the temple's new rabbi, Howard Voss-Altman, settle into his position.

"I didn't want them to have to deal with another change, so it wasn't the right time to leave," Steiman says of her decision to stay on for a year after Gutterman left the temple.

The changes in the curriculum, she says, are part of the school's move to become more flexible in meeting students' needs. The new model gives students more options on when they attend religious school.

"You have to work with the families because otherwise you're going to lose them," Steiman says of the approach she took in helping to make the educational curriculum more accommodating.

Before the change in structure, she says, students would often attend other extracurricular activities instead of Hebrew school, or they might not attend due to time constraints. Sometimes, they would even choose not to become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah.



Anita Steiman

"They were already in school, so they would think, why add on more?" Steiman says.

Steiman, who believes in a learning-by-doing approach, also spearheaded the introduction of field trips into the curriculum, in partnership with the teachers, who she says frequently made suggestions.

"I think that's what they're going to remember more than textbook learning," she says of the trips, which included visits to national monuments both Jewish and otherwise. "Plus the bonding on the bus. It's those memories."

Steiman says what she'll miss the most was the relationships she made while working at Beth-El.

"I always loved when kids would stop in at the temple and to visit me. You knew you had made an impact on them. They thought about the temple when they weren't there, and that was very special," she says.

"I never thought of them as … subordinates," she says, pausing to choose the right word. "We were always equal. I never felt that because of my title, it entitled me to anything. They were all special friends of mine, and I think that's what I'll miss the most."

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

Powerful presentation at Pride Shabbat

BY FRAN OSTENDORF
fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org

More than 100 people attended an inspirational Pride Shabbat June 17 at Temple Habonim in Barrington. Prayers and readings included a remembrance for those killed in Orlando June 5.



The congregation heard Roz, Richard and Hunter Keith speak about their journey as a family supporting Hunter, who is a transgender teen. Parents Roz and Richard spoke about the shock when Hunter told them. They also spoke about the unconditional love they have for their children. Hunter also spoke about acceptance at the Jewish day school he attends in Michigan, where the family lives. The Keiths are cousins of long-time Habonim members Vicki and Cliff Karten. He also emphasized how fortunate he is to have so much support.

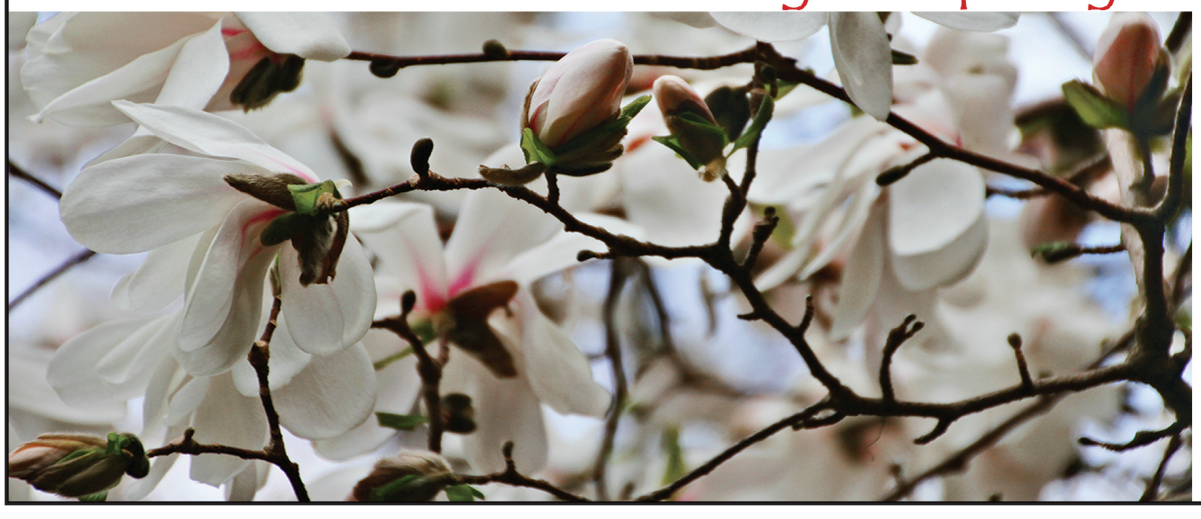
More than 40 percent of transgender teens attempt suicide, he said.

The family has started an organization called Stand with Trans to help transgender youth. For more information, standwithtrans.org



Hunter, Richard and Roz Keith. PHOTO | M. CHARLES BAKST

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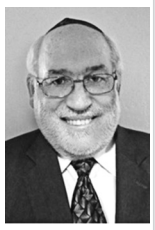
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The consequences of bad speech



RABBI ETHAN ADLER

In this week's portion, *Beha'alotecha*, we find a number of interesting narratives: Aaron's instructions on lighting the Tabernacle Menorah on a daily basis; initiation of the Levites into the Tabernacle service; description of the Passover offering; the establishment of a "second Passover" to be observed by those who were ritually unclean during the original time of the festival; the Israelites' travels, led through the Sinai wilderness by a cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night; special trumpets used for special occasions; Moses asking Jethro, his father-in-law, to join him on the road to Canaan (Jethro turns him down); the Israelites complaining about the lack of decent food and too much walking!; the establishment of 70 elders to help Moses adjudicate the many issues that came up; and, finally, Miriam and Aaron speaking against Moses. It is this last item that is about to get more attention.

The verse reads: "Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married."

We don't really know what they said about Moses and his wife – many and varied interpretations try to fill in what is missing. (Similar to when Cain and Abel were in the field, and they had words, and Cain rose up and killed Abel.) What we do know is that this was a case of *lashon hara* – slanderous talk, which is a bit different from when we make negative comments about someone else's pasta – known as *lakshon hara* – but that's another story.

The laws of *lashon hara* prohibit us from acting in a defamatory way – i.e., speaking negatively about someone, repeating what someone says about someone else, even just listening to "bad talk." It is also understood that *lashon hara* is to be avoided even if what is said is true!

Rambam (Maimonides) explains that *lashon hara* can be understood as words that can hurt, and words that can damage. The Chafetz Chayyim (Rabbi Yisrael Meir Kagan) warned that even if there is the slightest chance of our words harming someone in any way, we should avoid saying them. A twist on an old adage is: "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words WILL forever hurt me."

This notion of misspoken words is so serious that the rabbis have delineated five categories of destructive speech:

Rechilut – words that cause disputes

Lashon hara – harmful speech that may be true

Motzi shem ra – harmful speech that is not true

Ona-at devarim – speech that causes pain

Avak lashon hara – speech that borders on *lashon hara*.

So, we understand that speaking *lashon hara* is a dangerous undertaking, to be avoided at all costs. Miriam messed up, and had to face the consequences of her words, the severe punishment of being afflicted with leprosy and thus being sent out of the camp for seven days.

> **"Perhaps this is teaching us that God does not punish according to an Excel spreadsheet, where this act gets this punishment and that act gets that punishment."**

Miriam had been a bastion of strength – she stood by the banks of the Nile when Moses was placed there by his mother, and led the women in song after crossing the Red Sea. It is also said that a well followed the Israelites throughout their travels as a testament to Miriam and all she stood for. And yet, for saying whatever she said, which she probably should not have said, she got whacked with a pretty stiff punishment. What gives?

Perhaps this is teaching us that God does not punish according to an Excel spreadsheet, where this act gets this punishment and that act gets that punishment. God seems to judge us by our own, personal actions. We are judged according to our presumed abilities and potential.

In our story, God expected Miriam to act on a higher plane of behavior. What may have been acceptable from an average Israelite was not acceptable from Miriam.

A well-referenced analogy points out that a stain on a plaid shirt may be hardly noticeable; on a white shirt, for sure.

In a way, we might say that Miriam was not acting "presidential."

May the light of the Torah continue to shine its light of wisdom upon us, and upon all humankind.

ETHAN ADLER is rabbi of Congregation Beth David in Narragansett.

Jewish justice joining Argentina's Supreme Court in landmark appointment

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (JTA) – Carlos Rosenkrantz, a Buenos Aires attorney, law professor, and a former presidential adviser, will be the first Jewish justice on the Supreme Court of Argentina.

Rosenkrantz, 57, is expected to be sworn in to the nation's highest court next month, after being approved last week by two-thirds of the Senate. He was nominated in December by President Mauricio Macri.

The Buenos Aires native has been teaching law theory at the University of Buenos Aires since 1990 after earning his law degree from the school seven years earlier. He also practices at his own law firm, Bouzat, Rosenkrantz & Associates.

Rosenkrantz was an adviser to then-President Raul Alfonsin during the constitutional reform convention in 1994. He was global law professor at New York University School of Law from 1996 to 2007.

Just weeks after his nomination, the AMIA Jewish center in Buenos Aires wrote, in a public letter supporting his candidacy, that his appointment "would constitute a significant step in building a judiciary that reflects the diversity and plurality of our people," pointing out that "Rosenkrantz would be the first Jewish judge to integrate the Supreme Court."

In a biography on his own webpage, Rosenkrantz describes himself as a "son of a Jewish father with Polish roots and a Catholic teacher."

His mother was born in the northern province of Corrientes, and Rosenkrantz has said he considers himself to have ties to the province. In an appearance before the Senate on March 10, Rosenkrantz joked about his ties with the Corrientes province as well as with the Corrientes, a main avenue in Buenos Aires that passes through the Jewish neighborhoods of Balvanera and Almagro.

During confirmation hearings, a senator asked if his origins from a northern region could bring diversity to the court.

"With regard to regionalism, I consider myself 40 percent Correntinean, I am sensitive to regional diversities. My mother is Correntinean; my father used to say that he was Correntinean … but actually he was a Jew from Corrientes Street, not from the province of Corrientes," Rosenkrantz said.

He added: "I think that I bring some cultural diversity to the (Supreme) Court."

Gan Israel sets schedule for August camp

This year, Camp Gan Israel will be held on the grounds and in the building of Temple Torat Yisrael on Middle Road in East Greenwich. Torat Yisrael's building is completely air-conditioned and includes great fields for sports, a full basketball court and a lovely climbing playground for children.

Camp Gan Israel is known for a full day packed with activities. In addition, twice a week campers can choose the "Fun Shop" of their choice. This is a time when campers can choose the activities they enjoy most.

There are divisions for every age group: Mini Gan Izzi for younger children, and Pioneers division for older children. Camp director Shoshanah Laufer brings all the campers into the kitchen to enjoy fun, creative and exciting activities with cooking.

Each day of camp is devoted to a different theme, which campers explore through exciting hands-on activities, games, songs and more. The daily theme allows campers to experience Jewish values in a fun and lively way. Weekly challah baking and Shabbat parties are some of the experiences through which the beauty of the Jewish tradition comes alive.

Gan Israel 2016 includes three weekly programs between Aug. 1 and Aug. 19.

For a look at camp schedules including trip schedule, weekly themes and what special entertainment will be coming to camp that week, go to www.rijewishkids.com/camp

To register or for more info contact Shoshanah or Rabbi Yossi Laufer at 401-884-7888 or mrslaufer@gmail.com.

FROM PAGE 1

LEGISLATION

of in the boycott of any person, firm or entity based in or doing business with a jurisdiction with whom the state can enjoy open trade, and/or the boycott of any public agencies, entities or instrumentalities of the jurisdiction with whom the state can enjoy open trade."

What this means is that as long as a country is in good standing with the World Trade Organization, a business cannot discriminate based on race, color, religion, gender, or nationality of the targeted person, or firm by boycott, divestment or sanction, said Marty Cooper, community relations director of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

Rep. Mia Ackerman (D-Dist. 45) introduced the bill in February. A hearing took place in May.

Representatives from the Jewish community in Rhode Island, including the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Alliance and StandWithUs Rhode Island, testified at the hearing.

"Today's interdependent global economy requires that trade policy be developed both at the national and state level," Ackerman said. "One of our greatest trading allies is the State of Israel, the only democratic, non-discriminatory country in the Middle East."

Candle Lighting Times

Greater Rhode Island

June 24	8:04
July 1	8:04
July 8	8:02
July 15	7:58
July 22	7:53
July 29	7:46
August 5	7:38



When will the wheels stop spinning?



EDITOR

FRAN OSTENDORF

Five years ago, then-editor of The Jewish Voice Nancy Kirsch wrote a moving editor's column about the Newtown, Connecticut, school shootings. Her column came to mind after the recent tragedy at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando. Different target and shooter. But the issues remain the same.

In the years since Kirsch's column, there have been nearly 1,000 mass shootings, according to the Gun Violence Archive. The archive defines mass shooting as "FOUR or more shot and/or killed in a single event [incident], at the same general time and location not including the shooter." Since Newtown, several organizations have been tracking shootings, including USA Today; not all of them define mass shootings as broadly. But there's no disputing the fact that several of the larger incidents have occurred in the years since Newtown: the 2015 San Bernardino attack and the 2013 Navy Yard attack in Washington, D.C., and the Aurora, Colorado, attack that same year. Our legislators have done virtually nothing to reign in gun violence in the United States.

Here in Rhode Island, the R.I. Coalition Against Gun Violence is working to reduce gun violence with more than 77 partner organizations, including the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island. The coalition works through lobbying and grassroots initiatives. The state legislature has discussed the issue of gun violence but only passed a watered-down bill that affects domestic violence.

Nationally, our leaders have been hopelessly entwined in arguments over how to protect our Second Amendment rights while protecting Americans. Three days after Orlando, Democrats in the Senate started a filibuster that lasted almost 15 hours in an effort to bring gun regulation legislation to the floor. It ended after Republicans agreed to allow votes on four proposed gun-control measures. But on June 20 each one was defeated.

No matter which side of the argument you are on and no matter which political party or candidate you favor, one thing is clear: not much has changed since the Newtown tragedy. There's been lots of talk, but little action.

It seems like the right time to take another look at Kirsch's column.

This ends now ... or does it?

BY NANCY KIRSCH
writernancy@gmail.com

Reprinted from The Jewish Voice, Dec. 21, 2012.

As I write this, on Dec. 14, the day of the horrific massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., I heard Jay Carney, President Obama's press person, say, "I don't think today is the day" to talk about gun control policies. I got angry.

It was the perfect time to address gun control, to address a better system to identify, evaluate and treat emotionally ill individuals who are predisposed to violence and to address our nation's fascination with guns, violence and its "shoot 'em up" mentality.

Since the horrific school massacre, pundits have overtaken the news media with ideas about how to prevent another mass shooting. I'm politically savvy enough to appreciate that many politicians are "in bed" with all-too-powerful entities like the National Rifle Association whose PAC monies help elect said politicians. I'm not wise enough to propose a realistic fix for that incestuous relationship – public financing, perhaps?

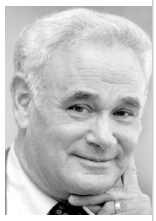
Individuals committing massacres in the United States are male, most in their late teens or early 20s, and generally loners. I'm not wise enough to identify any other commonalities; perhaps we should evaluate how effectively we identify and treat emotionally damaged individuals prone to violence. Perhaps we should

KIRSCH | 9

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.

The day Rabin died



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

Nov. 4, 1995, dawned cloudless and mild in Jerusalem. As I began to rouse myself that Saturday morning in the Windmill Hotel, I saw that my 16-year-old son was stirring on the low-to-the-floor bed a few feet across the small room. A junior at Barrington High School, he was spending a semester abroad as one of 20 American Jewish students in the Reform movement's Eisendrath International Exchange (E.I.E.) program based at Beit Shmuel, right next to the King David Hotel.

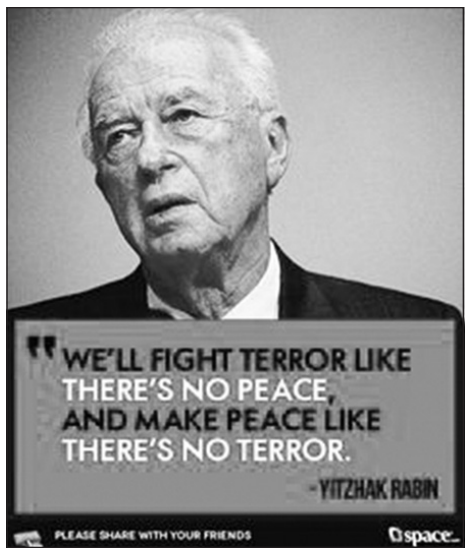
The E.I.E powers-that-be had given me permission to "borrow" David for the day. After an ample Israeli breakfast, we drove our rented car due east from Jerusalem on a road that drops precipitously to 1,200 feet below sea level at the Dead Sea. We then proceeded south along its shore to Masada, once a desert palace of King Herod that stood atop a stone plateau 1,300 feet above the salty water's shimmering surface. Masada is best known as the place where, in 73 C.E. 960 Jews committed mass suicide in their crumbling fortress rather than submit to the brutality of the Roman legions who were about to overrun them.

After hiking up the steep Snake Path to Masada's plateau, my son – who had visited this spot before as part of the E.I.E. program – gave me a guided tour of every nook and cranny of this monument to Jewish resistance. Though I had been to Masada before, David's knowledge of this place far exceeded my own. As he opened up for me new chapters in the history of our people, I could only kvell – to use the Yiddish term, which roughly translates as "burst with pride."

Being sensitive to the strain that the hike down the Snake Path would put on my knees, David insisted that we take the cable car back to the parking lot.

Once in the car, we continued south along the shore of the Dead Sea, then west – detouring through Makhtesh Hagadol, an area of large-scale geological erosion of strikingly stark beauty – to lunch in Beersheba.

By late afternoon, David and I rejoined his E.I.E. group. The group was spending the night in a modest guesthouse at Kibbutz Nachshon, about 20 miles northwest of Jerusalem. We joined his classmates for a no-frills supper, followed by *havdalah* – wine goblet, spice box, twisted candle – to mark the separation of Shabbat from the first day of the week, which, counter-intuitively, begins just after sunset. With that, we settled down in front of the TV to watch an unexceptional Crocodile Dundee movie with Hebrew subtitles.



Suddenly the Hebrew words *chadashot chashuvot* (important news) crawled across the top of the screen. At first I assumed that the "important news" was nothing more significant than future programming, but within seconds the movie was preempted by a scene of utter chaos punctuated with hysterical screams. Out of the cacophony I managed to make out a few Hebrew phrases: *shalosh yeriot* (three shots); Rabin *b'vet cholim* (Rabin is in the hospital); *matsavo kasheh* (his condition is grave).

It did not take long for the world to learn that Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's prime minister, had been assassinated by a right-wing Jewish extremist. Shock and confusion shattered the warmth and camaraderie of a laid-back Saturday evening in the guesthouse. I felt as I did on that awful Friday afternoon of Nov. 22, 1963, when I heard the radio newsman announce with trembling voice: "President Kennedy is dead. President Kennedy is dead."

Although by late 1995 Israelis were beginning to use cellphones, cellphone technology was still in its infancy throughout most of the world. As a result, it took hours before 20 anxious teenagers could reach their equally anxious parents in the States over the jammed phone lines. It was not until one or two in the morning that David and I were finally able to reach my wife.

As far as we could tell, we were in no obvious danger; but questions were flying through the air all night long – questions that, at the time, had no answers. To me the most poignant question of all, asked by David and his peers, was, "Does this mean that we have to go home?" The E.I.E. program had done its job: despite what had just happened, each of the 20 students wanted to remain in Israel. As it turned out, they were able to stay until the scheduled end of the program in late December.

I did not leave Israel until a few days after Rabin's funeral. Paradoxical as it may seem, there was no place in the world I would rather have been during those days of sorrow and pain. Never have I experienced a deeper sense of connection with the Jewish people. Despite my intense disagreement with many of the policies of Israel's current leadership, my sense of shared identity with the people of Israel has not diminished. I do not need to love Israel's government in order to love Israel, just as I do not need to love the goings-on in Washington in order to love my country.

More than 20 years have passed since the day Yitzhak Rabin was murdered, yet even today I feel privileged to have been in Israel during that first week of November 1995, to have stood in line to view his bier, to have borne witness to his passing.

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

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).

Outgoing Alliance chair reflects on three years of change

BY SHARON GAINES

This speech was presented June 15 to the annual meeting of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. The remarks have been slightly edited for publication.

As I come to the end of this experience I am filled with a mixture of emotions. Three years ago, I made a promise to work tirelessly to champion the cause of the Alliance, to steward its mission, and to strengthen and secure its future, and I hope I have met the challenge.

It's hard to believe how much we have grown and achieved in the five years since integration. I can proudly reflect on the successes we have accomplished together during my tenure.

As the community fundraisers, we have continued to raise needed resources through our annual campaign to provide programs and services at the Alliance, throughout the Rhode Island Jewish community and worldwide. In addition, over the past three years we have raised much needed dollars to continue our Living on the Edge Initiative through which this year alone we have touched hundreds of lives. We have built a beautiful Holocaust memorial in downtown Providence and began major renovations to the Dwares JCC.

I am proud of the good work we do in providing our constituents with excellent programs and services. We have worked hard to remain relevant to the whole community, and I know we will continue to do so moving forward.

This past year was marked by two significant achievements for me. First, the board, the professional staff and I embarked on a strategic visioning process for the Alliance as an organization and a community leader as well as establishing new priorities and guidelines for our CDC [allocations] process.

During our meetings from September through April, the board had impactful, strategic conversations, as we began to answer the questions about who we are, what we are good at and how we can best operate to meet our goals while exploring ways to strengthen our Jewish identity, build our Jewish community and grow our Jewish philanthropy. I know the answers will help guide the Alliance in the years ahead.

Second, I had the opportunity to travel to Israel with a dynamic group of influential Rhode Island



Sharon Gaines

leaders. It was the first time in 10 years that we had a Community Relations Council (CRC) mission to Israel, and it was a resounding success.

The 15 members of the community who traveled with us, including Speaker of the House, Nicholas Mattiello; Senate President M. Teresa Pavia Weed; Central Falls Mayor James Diossa; and Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital President Margaret Van Bree bonded in incredible ways. Bridges were created between Israel and the participants as well as among the participants and the Alliance that will reap benefits long into the future.

I want to thank my fellow officers and board members for all they did to help me – we have had a terrific time this past year due in large part to the amazing skill set each brought to the table. And I appreciate all the good work we did together.

I am grateful for the numerous legacies and achievements forged by my predecessors, past presidents of the Federation, the Bureau and the JCC as well as Richard Licht, the first past chair of the Alliance. I thank them for all their unwavering support and guidance, and I am proud to join the ranks of past chair.

As an Alliance, we must continue to foster an environment that attracts the most talented staff, and we must ensure that we allow them to achieve their promise. I am secure in the knowledge that we are doing just that and I am grateful for the professionals I have had the privilege and honor of working with here.

Jeffrey [Savit], having you as my professional partner these past three years has been incredible – I cannot thank you enough for all that you do for our community. You are a remarkable leader, a tireless fundraiser, a wonderful travel companion and a great friend – thank you for always having my back and for always making sure I left the office with a smile on my face.

Passing the baton to Mitzi Berkelhammer is one of the easiest things I have been asked to do as chair. Your dedication to this Jewish community is evident in everything you have done and will continue to do, and I know you will have many great successes as the next chair. I wish you only the very best.

Finally, I especially want to thank my husband Alan who has always been by my side, serving as my personal and emotional compass. And to my three sons, Ben, Alex and Zach thank you for always standing by my side, never wavering in your love and never complaining about one more meeting. I am ever so grateful to all of you.

Thank you all again for allowing me to help write this next chapter in Alliance history and for allowing me to participate in this great cause. It's been the journey of a lifetime.

SHARON GAINES served as chair of the board of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island from 2013 to 2016. She now serves as chair of the Jewish Federation Foundation Board.

Of frogs, scorpions and parking meters

BY KENNETH R. DULGARIAN

The Mayor Elorza parking meter economic plague currently destroying Thayer Street local businesses reminds me of an updated version of the old fable about the scorpion that asked a frog for transportation across a river.

Initially, the frog refused for fear the scorpion would sting him as they crossed, then agreed when the scorpion assured him he would never do that because both of them would drown. But halfway across, the scorpion struck, and as they both were drowning, the frog asked: "Why?" The scorpion replied: "I'm from City Hall."

If asked, no practical business owner – understanding the negative impact of these flawed parking meters on customers and the real total cost of these meters – would support their installation. Unlike the naïve frog, they would know that both local businesses and Providence would be big losers.

The Elorza parking meters are fast becoming an icon of municipal incompetence.

So far, Thayer Street business owners report that, because of the meters driving away their customers, business is down 40 to 70 percent. Two well-known businesses have been forced to close; more are considering closing; and some half-dozen stores are vacant.

Verizon reported that it was closing after its monthly phone sales fell from a high of 150 to 50, "if lucky." ZuZu's Petals dress shop ended 25 years on Thayer Street after it was engulfed in customers' meter complaints. The Avon Theater, which opened in 1938, reports its popular matinees are now almost empty.

Elorza, already collecting the third-highest commercial property tax in the nation, contends that what he hopes to be significant new revenue from the parking meters is needed to help Providence's fiscal morass. There is good reason to believe that a total forensic accounting would prove this is tooth-fairy thinking.

A total accounting would have to include the cost of the new high-tech meters, outsourced meter-systems management, the major loss of various current taxes because of reduced and failed businesses, repair and maintenance, meter readers, and adjudication of ticket challenges. And there is the possibility of the costs of litigation regarding damage to established businesses, including financial problems caused by failure to maintain loan-to-value levels.

Also, besides the loss of tax revenue, a cost/benefit analysis would clearly show further loss of the attractiveness of Providence to new business development, loss of attractiveness to visitors, and loss of attractiveness to present and future homeowners and renters, putting downward pressure on real estate values.

Compounding these problems, the parking meters have technical flaws, generating a multitude of complaints, including failure to work with credit cards as advertised, eating credit cards, complexity of using them and random displays of erroneous time-up signals to meter checkers.

None of this is news. Large and small cities across the country, and in Canada and England, have reported similar complaints – all apparently either not investigated or brushed aside by Providence City Hall.

Unfortunately, all complaints so far from Thayer Street business owners have received similar treatment. However, the owners have invested too much of their lives in Thayer Street not to persist.

More than 80 merchants and 3,500 customers have protested the Elorza parking meters in separate petitions, telling the mayor to remove them. Apparently he needs to be told again. And, if necessary, again. And again. Email the mayor at mayor@providenceri.gov.

Despite what some at City Hall may think, Thayer Street business owners are not naïve frogs. And Mayor Elorza should not want to be remembered as a scorpion.

KENNETH R. DULGARIAN is president of Dulgarian Properties, a real estate developer.

FROM PAGE 8

KIRSCH

admit that, absent answers, the United States should consult with experts in highly industrialized countries where mass shootings occur far more rarely. Perhaps the number of "copycat" attacks might decline with a media ban on releasing shooters' names. Many of these young men – completely isolated and alone – may opt for their "15 minutes of fame" through posthumous infamy. Yes, it's a First Amendment issue, but other First Amendment limitations have been upheld as constitutional. The release of names via social media is virtually instantaneous – and often incorrect!

Murders of prominent people – JFK, RFK, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X – peppered my youthful years. While each was shocking and traumatic, today's children are growing up in an era when horrific killings are much too commonplace. If they're "lucky," they see the unspeakable carnage only on their iPhones, iPads, TVs or in print – the "unlucky ones," of course, are those who know, or are, victims of a shooting!

Remember these mass murders? Seattle (March 2006, seven dead); Lancaster, Pa. (October 2006, five Amish children dead); Binghamton, N.Y. (April 2009, 14 dead) … and many more, including the January 2011 murder of six people and wounding of 13 others, including U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, in Tucson, Ariz. It's horrific to think how many such shootings we've experienced since last January. According to thinkprogress.org/justice, the rate of people killed by guns in the United States is 19.5 times higher than in similarly high-income countries.

I'm politically savvy enough to recognize that our elected officials might, just might, declare, "This ends here, this ends now," but unless they actually do something to address the root causes of this national scourge, I know that we'll see more lost lives, more grieving families and more pontificating pundits.

President Obama got it half-right: This is not the time for talk about gun control; this is the time to take action.

No wonder I'm angry.

NANCY KIRSCH of Providence is now a freelance writer.

After Orlando, LGBTQ Jews seek more than 'solidarity'

BY IDIT KLEIN

BOSTON (JTA) – In the wake of the Orlando shooting, statements of solidarity with the LGBTQ community quickly tumbled forth. Some expressions of support came from unlikely sources such as the Orthodox Union and the Catholic Church. But what does a statement of solidarity mean in response to a crisis when it is not expressed in ordinary times?

Surely there were LGBTQ Catholics, evangelicals, Orthodox Jews and Muslims who were moved to hear their faith community leaders condemn the attack. For many of these faith leaders, it may have felt momentous and bold, risky even, to express empathy with the LGBTQ community.

I appreciate the progress represented by these expressions of support, but as a lesbian, I do not actually feel supported by them. The Orthodox Union issued a statement saying "it is clear that those people who were murdered … were targeted because of their identification with the LGBT community. … No American should be assailed due to his or her personal identity." Yet this same group lobbied against marriage equality and supports religious exemption laws that would allow businesses to discriminate against LGBTQ people.

An assurance of solidarity must move beyond compassion for loss of life to affirming the dignity of those who are alive. Without the resolve to support cultural change and policy reform, expressions of solidarity may provide immediate solace but, ultimately, they leave LGBTQ people standing alone.

In the aftermath of Orlando, this is especially true for LGBTQ Jews of color, particularly Latin queer Jews. I've noticed that most of the Jewish media's coverage about the Orlando shooting has not acknowledged the experience of Latin LGBTQ Jews who may see themselves in the victims more acutely than Jews of other backgrounds. This erasure adds to their pain and sense of isolation in the wake of this tragedy. True solidarity means honoring the diversity of our community both in the media and in our communal discourse.

Solidarity also means reflective accountability. It means asking questions: what enables such hatred to flourish? How have I been a bystander in a culture of bigotry? How have I been complicit in a legal system that perpetuates second-class status for LGBTQ people? Abraham Joshua Heschel famously wrote, "In a free society where terrible wrongs exist, few are guilty, but all are responsible." The challenge of Heschel's observation is that words alone are not enough to right the wrongs all around us. Responsibility requires both words and action – not only in the aftermath of a crisis but all the time.

Unfortunately, after horrific acts motivated by ideology or committed in the name of religion, religious communities are often quick to disassociate from the perpetrator. When Yishai Schlissel, a haredi Orthodox ex-convict, stabbed six marchers at the Jerusalem Pride Parade last summer – murdering 16-year-old Shira Banki – Jewish community leaders, including many Orthodox voices, did not hesitate to condemn the attack. Yet many of these leaders asserted that Schlissel's views do not represent Judaism or Torah. I disagree. As a committed Jew, I acknowledge with sadness that Schlissel's views do represent certain aspects of our religious tradition. We have critical work to do to challenge these currents of bigotry rather than disregard them.

As a queer Jew, the solidarity I seek from other Jews is not simply ignoring the passages of Torah that are used to discriminate against LGBTQ people. I seek recognition that homophobia and transphobia actively exist in our modern Jewish community and are perversions within our interpretive tradition. I seek the acknowledgment that religion is too often used to justify discrimination against LGBTQ people. By acknowledging this painful reality, we have the opportunity to condemn the ugliness in our tradition and still hold up all that is beautiful.

As part of my work at Keshet, a national organization working for LGBTQ equality and inclusion in Jewish life, my colleagues and I host a series of *Shabbatonim* for LGBTQ and ally teens. Each time we host a *Shabbaton*, I am struck by how many of the teens share that they've never before felt so validated, seen and free.

"At the *Shabbaton*, I finally felt like there was no part of myself I needed to hide, and I was able to embrace myself in its entirety," a gay teen recently wrote to me.

Nearly all the teens who participate in our *Shabbatonim* are part of Jewish communities that would describe themselves as inclusive. Most of them have very supportive parents. They attend high schools with gay-straight alliances. So how is it that kids who have so much support in their lives still feel so alone in the world as queer Jewish teens? Our leaders are clearly falling short. The sign posts for inclusion must be more visible. The language of support must be audible all year round, not only during Pride month or after a tragedy.

It shouldn't take a crisis like the Orlando shooting to catalyze religious leaders' support for LGBTQ people. In the coming weeks and months, I hope to see people in faith communities – and political leaders of many religious backgrounds – take a bold step toward equality for LGBTQ people beyond attending a vigil or producing a statement.

Just as we are hearing a growing chorus of voices reject the "thoughts and prayers" of politicians and demand action for gun reform, I call on all who offer solidarity with the LGBTQ community to continue to stand with us as we move forward. Solidarity must outlast our mourning.

IDIT KLEIN is the executive director of Keshet.

LETTER

Thank you Rep. Mia Ackerman

I am writing to publicly thank Rep. Mia Ackerman for passing HB 7736, better known as the Rhode Island anti-Boycott, Divestment and Sanction Law (anti-BDS Law). The bill passed overwhelmingly and has received notoriety and kudos from newspapers across the country and throughout Israel.

While it is "nation neutral," its greatest impact will be on prohibiting any individual or company that seeks to do business with Rhode Island from engaging in economic warfare with Israel, or any other Rhode Island trading partner with favored nation status.

Mia has been a stalwart in the Jewish community. While her district is located in Cumberland and Lincoln, her impact has been felt statewide. Mia has been the sponsor of legislation that supports our community, as well as the State of Israel. She has worked with the Jewish Alliance, and both its Community Relations Council and Israel Task Force, in sponsoring resolutions ensuring that our Jewish history and the State of Israel are recognized and honored. Mia, having ascended to the position of Deputy Majority Leader, has the knowledge and gravitas to get things done. We are blessed to have her represent all of our collective interests.

Pro-Israel groups across the country have already published articles about the importance of this Rhode Island legislation. Further illustrating the bill's impact, within hours of its passage, the major Israel newspapers reported that Rhode Island is now included in the tally of U. S. states standing up for the State of Israel with anti-BDS legislation. For greater Rhode Island, this is a pro-business bill. As Mia said, "Rhode Island is at a crossroads and we need to reinvigorate our economy. This is especially true of our new high-tech and other knowledge-based industries. Today's interdependent global economies require that trade policy be developed both at the national and state level. This includes the State of Israel which is one of our greatest trading partners and the only democratic, non-discriminatory country in the Middle East." With Mia's leadership, Rhode Island just sent a clear message to the Israel business community that they are welcome in Rhode Island.

Yasher koach Rep. Mia Ackerman, a Jewish, community and state leader of whom we can all be proud.

Jeffrey Gladstone, Esq.
President of StandWithUs
Rhode Island

WE'RE TAKING A BREAK

This is the last newspaper until Aug. 5. Like many of you, we take a summer break, and it starts with this paper. But keep sending us your news and photos. We're still in the office almost every day.

This year, we'll be keeping our website up to date. You can post to the website yourself. It's easy. Go to jvhri.org and register. Then you can sign in and post your news and photos. Someone from our office takes a look before the information goes "live" on the website. Now, everyone can keep up with community news during July.

If you are digitally challenged, don't hesitate to send your information via mail (401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906) or email (editor@jewishallianceri.org). We'll get it online for you.

We'll see you in August!

The Jewish Voice staff

CLARIFICATION

Rhode Island's Jewish Freemasons have not all been assimilationists

BY SHAI AFSAI

In my article about Jews, Freemasonry and Rhode Island's Redwood Lodge (12/25/2015), I never once used the word "assimilation." Rather, I emphasized that Redwood Lodge's Jewish founders and members sought to maintain a continuing identification and involvement with Jewish culture. The Voice, however, retitled my article "Jews and Freemasonry: a quest for assimilation."

Myer Noot, the driving force behind the transformation of Providence's Congregation of the Sons of Israel and David from an Orthodox into a Moderate Reform synagogue (today's Temple Beth-El) in the 1870s, and the driving force behind the founding of the Masonic Redwood Lodge in 1878, didn't want RI Jews to assimilate. He hoped a Reform synagogue would draw in more unaffiliated Jews and that Redwood Lodge would unite the state's Jewish Freemasons.

Noot argued in favor of maintaining three exclusively Jewish fraternities in R.I., to which many of Redwood Lodge's early Jewish members also belonged. In his 1885 address to the R.I. Veteran Citizens Historical Association, for example, he defended the practice of excluding non-Jews from these non-Masonic fraternities, stating: "The aims and objects are alike in all [of the three fraternities] and are strictly Jewish so far as not to admit any but Israelites, as the name would denote – Sons of Covenant. The inconsistency of admitting non-Israelites is self-evident to any fair-minded person."

Those aren't the actions or words of an assimilationist. Nor have the many other Jewish Freemasons in R.I. who have been active members of the state's synagogues and Jewish organizations been assimilationists.

SHAI AFSAI lives in Providence. His "Freemasonry and Religious Accommodation in Rhode Island" appears in Volume 23 of Heredom: The Transactions of The Scottish Rite Research Society (2015), pp. 137-170.

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 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 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.

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.



Sunday | June 26

West Bay Havurah at the Crescent Park Looff Carousel. 11 a.m.-noon. 700 Bullocks Point Ave., Riverside. The historic Looff Carousel, which is the last vestige of Crescent Park Amusement Park and an East Providence fixture from 1895 to 1979, is the largest and most elaborate carousel in R.I. The Havurah has arranged a private one-hour behind the scenes tour of this National Historic Landmark. Hear a talk on the history of the carousel and its creator, Charles I.D. Looff, tour its inner workings and take two complete rides in an attempt to grab the brass rings and, perhaps, the gold ring. Following is an optional lunch stop. Event fee is $5 per person, payable at the door. For more information or to register, call Mark Sweberg at 401-248-5010.

(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.

Saturday | July 2

Taste of Shabbat. 9 a.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Torah discussion from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. and abbreviated Shabbat service from 9:45 a.m. 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.

Thursday | July 7

Brotherhood of Temple Beth-El Meeting. 6-8 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. For more information, email temple-beth-el.org or call 401-331-6070.

Friday | July 15

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

Temple Beth-El's Shabbat Under the Stars. 7-8:30 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Greet Shabbat with song and stories in the Julie Claire Gutterman Garden Patio. For more information, email temple-beth-el.org or call 401-331-6070.

Saturday | July 16

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

An Evening with Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul & Mary). 6-10:30 p.m. Aqua Blue Ballroom, One Beach Street, Narragansett. "An Evening with Peter Yarrow" is warm, humorous, contemporary, nostalgic and inspiring. The multi-Grammy winner will join our community for a remarkable fundraising event for Congregation Beth David that includes a full performance, dinner, and silent and live auctions. Tickets start at $60. Visit Congregation Beth David's website at cbdri.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

West Bay Havurah trip to "Damn Yankees" followed by dessert. 7:30-11:30 p.m. Ocean State Theater, 1245 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick. Enjoy the Broadway mega-hit and winner of seven Tony Awards. Middle-aged baseball fanatic Joe Boyd trades his soul to the Devil, also known as Mr. Applegate, for a chance to lead his favorite team to victory in the pennant race against the New York Yankees. Value tickets are $39 per person. Available seating is first-come first-served. Afterward, enjoy an optional meetup at Gregg's Restaurant for further fun and good conversation over dessert. Please send check no later than June 18 to Mark Sweberg. Call Mark at 401-248-5010 for mailing address.

Monday | July 18

Temple Beth-El Summer Celebration. Ledgemont Country Club, 131 Brown Ave., Seekonk. Golf tournament, tennis, card games, kids' pool party, cocktails, dinner, raffle drawing and auction. Golf registration begins at 11:30 a.m.; free kids' pool and games party begins at 1:30 p.m.; tennis and card games begin at 2 p.m. For more information, contact Ruby Shalansky, development director, at 401-331-6070 or rshalansky@temple-beth-el.org.

Thursday | July 21

Jewish Identity through the Lens of Modern History. 6-7:30 p.m. Congregation Beth David, 102 Kingstown Road, Narragansett. Join in the six-lesson class to explore your personal Jewishness. Offered by the Jewish Learning Institute. $60 for course (plus $20 if you want to keep textbook). Scholarships available. Classes meet July 28, Aug. 4, 18, 25 and Sept. 1. For reservations or for more information, contact Rabbi Yossi Laufer at Rabbi@RabbiWarwick.com or 401-884-7888.

Sunday | July 24

West Bay Havurah Mid-Summer Beach/Pool Party & Potluck Picnic. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Masonic Youth Center, 116 Long St., Warwick. Relax by the beach, swim in the refreshing pool, and picnic and party with your new and old friends. This lovely 74-acre private park has two pools (one Olympic-sized, one kiddie), a baseball field, and basketball and shuffleboard courts. Our reserved picnic spot under Joan Coken's name and a concession stand make it a perfect quick getaway in a beautiful setting. Two-dollar donation at the gate plus a potluck food item (enough for five people) buys you a frolicking good time. Bring lawn chairs, sunscreen, hats, bathing suits and your best beach party behavior. Open to entire community! Limited to 25 people; register with Joan at 401-467-7763 no later than July 17, and indicate what food item you are bringing.

Monday | July 25

Temple Sinai Golf Classic. Valley Country Club, 251 New London Ave., Warwick. All monies raised during this special event will support the educational programs at Temple Sinai. For more information about the golf classic, and the lunch preceding the program, call Dottie in the temple office at 401-942-8350.

Sunday | August 7

West Bay Havurah Ranger-Led Talk and Walk. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge, 50 Bend Road, Charlestown. The Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge, supported by your tax dollars, conserves 850 beautiful and awe-inspiring acres to aid migratory birds in their spring and fall journeys. The award-winning Kettle Pond Visitor Center functions as a welcome station to the refuge and houses awesome natural history exhibits, live animals, craft activities for children and more. Enjoy a ranger talk about how the land was formed and sculpted by glaciers, the history of human habitation on the land and how it became a National Wildlife Refuge. Afterward, join in on a short and easy, guided accessible walk to an observation tower that looks out to Block Island. For kids and adults. Open to all. Call Mark Sweberg at 401-248-5010 to register and for more information.

Tuesday | August 9

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

Saturday | August 13

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



PHOTO | AL WEEMS PHOTOGRAHY

The power of fundraising

Rick and Marcy Granoff, were chairs of Bradley Hospital's 2016 Bravo Bradley gala, Feel the Power of Music, which was held on June 3 at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. Bradley's largest annual fundraiser raised a record $557,425. Of that total, $160,250 will help establish a much-needed outpatient clinic for patients with autism and developmental disabilities at New England's only psychiatric hospital devoted to children.

From Vilna, vegetarian recipes that stand the test of time

BY CYNTHIA BENJAMIN

Fania Lewando was a Yiddish culinary superstar in Vilna, Lithuania, before World War II. A pioneer in the Jewish vegetarian movement, Lewando was a powerhouse who owned a kosher dairy restaurant that was frequented by Vilna's literati, ran a kosher cooking school, and wrote a cookbook – making her the first woman to publish a vegetarian cookbook in Yiddish in Europe, according to cookbook author and culinary maven Joan Nathan.

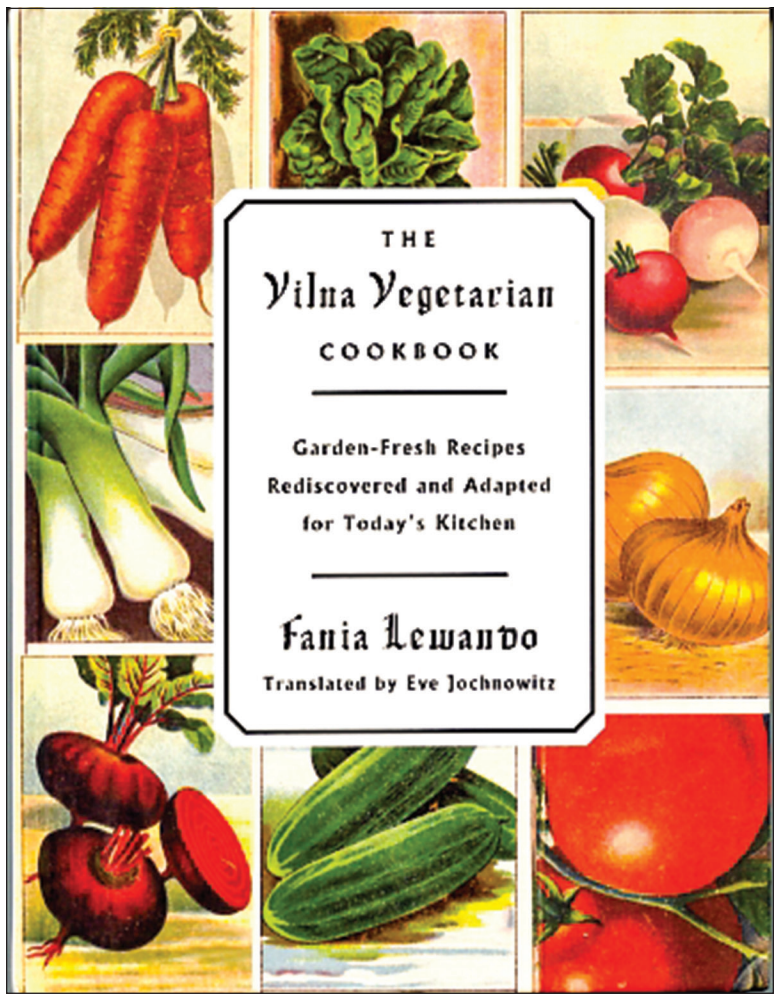
In 2015, Lewando's groundbreaking "Vegetarish-Dietisher Kokhbukh" was republished in a lavish English edition, complete with exquisite full-color illustrations from the original, as "The Vilna Vegetarian Cookbook." Eva Jochnowitz is modestly credited on the cover as the translator, but, once inside, you'll discover that it was Jochnowitz who not only translated, but annotated, tested and adapted the recipes "for the modern kitchen."

Jochnowitz went through the heavy lifting of converting amounts – when given – from decagrams to cups and other modern measurements, but overall, she pretty much left these timeless recipes to speak for themselves.

In the style of prewar cookbooks – and especially prewar Jewish cookbooks – the directions are scanty. Be warned: This is not a cookbook for beginners or the faint of heart.

Lewando assumes a certain level of familiarity with cooking techniques and Jewish foods that most modern cooks lack. Be prepared to rely on your experience – or guess – about vegetable-prep techniques, to sort out counterintuitive listings of ingredients, and to make mistakes. But those who make the effort will be richly rewarded with mouthwatering recipes for everything from salads and soups to porridges, desserts, stews, wine and vitamin drinks.

The recipes are written in a single paragraph – there's no separate lists of ingredients and no fussy directions. The cookbook is also organized by some system Lewando had in her head but which eludes us. For example, "cutlets" and "latkes" are in separate categories, although they yield a more or less identical product, and there's a huge section simply called "miscellaneous dishes."



The beauty of the simplicity of these recipes is twofold – they are quick and easy to whip up, and they are basic enough to be used as a starting point if you want to get more creative. For example, I made the blueberry dumpling recipe, but added a little flour to the blueberries because they were particularly large and juicy. When the dumplings were done, I didn't find their pale, doughy look very appealing, so I lightly fried them in a mixture of butter and canola oil.

I brought them to the table, remarking, "Remember, these are old-style Jewish recipes – you won't find this dessert as sweet as what you're used to."

"Delicious," my son and his friends declared.

Emboldened, I then offered them some of the dumplings I hadn't fried.

"Also delicious," my son said enthusiastically. His friends agreed, but some wanted their dumplings with just a sprinkling of sugar, and some wanted them smothered with sour cream, as the recipe suggests.

Even if you're not much of a cook, you might want this cookbook for your Jewish library. The recipes are thoroughly in line with modern-day vegetarianism and yet link us to our Jewish past. The art, from bilingual seeds packets, is so beautiful, I've leafed through the pages dozens and dozens of times.

The cookbook includes a forward by Nathan, an essay by Lewando's great-nephew, a prewar essay, "Why Are Fruits and Vegetables So Important for the Organism?" and an explanation of why vegetarianism is a natural fit for Jews. Also included are excerpts from the guestbook at Lewando's Vilna restaurant, including this one from Marc Chagall: "They say the food here is delicious, but unfortunately I came with a delicate stomach and was only able to taste a tiny bit, and it was delicious nonetheless."

One final word, before you get cooking: Cooking temperatures are not included in the recipes, so Jochnowitz provides the following guide: When baking, set oven to 350 degrees; if the recipe says "a warm oven," figure around 300 degrees; and 400 to 425 degrees for a "hot oven."

Cauliflower Wiener Schnitzel

Chop 1 small piece of cauliflower [1/2 cup chopped], mix with one large egg, 1 tablespoon bread crumbs, and some salt, and beat well. Melt 1/4 cup butter in a frying pan, add the batter and cook on both sides [until it starts to brown]. Serve topped with a fried egg, and garnish with fried new potatoes and a gratin of carrots.

Cabbage and Apple Borscht

Finely shred 2 pounds cabbage (about 1 head) and grate 1 parsley root [a parsnip can be substituted], 2 carrots, 1 celery root and 2 peeled tart apples. Add to cabbage, along with the juice of 1 lemon. Cook in 2 quarts water for 1 hour. Meanwhile, sauté 2 large grated onions in 3/4 cup melted butter with 1 tablespoon flour, and add to the soup. Sprinkle in salt and sugar to taste. Serve with 1 tablespoon sour cream in each dish.

Creamed Beets

Roast 2 pounds beets in their skins until soft, then peel and grate. Squeeze the juice from 1 lemon. Add 1 tablespoon sugar, 2 tablespoons sour cream, and some salt. Mix well with the beets, and heat until warm.

Vitamin-Rich Fig Cakes

Cook a syrup of 1 cup sugar and 1 cup water. Meanwhile, chop 10 ounces figs. Add 1 cup chopped nuts, the juice of 1/2 lemon, and the grated zest of 1 lemon. Add everything to the syrup, and mix well. Then pour it out onto a flat plate, allow to cool, and cut into little cakes.

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





Art from "The Vilna Vegetarian Cookbook"

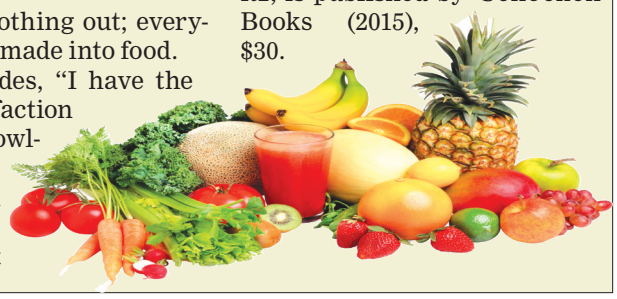
'To the housewife'

Fania Lewando, who is believed to have perished in the Holocaust, included in her cookbook an essay, "To the Housewife: A Few Words and Practical Advice" that begins: "It has long been established by the best medical authorities that food made from fruits and vegetables is far healthier and more suitable for the human organism than food made from meat."

Lewando further writes that "One must strictly observe the following directions," which include:

- The produce must be of the best quality.
- One must use clean utensils.
- Throw nothing out; everything can be made into food.

She concludes, "I have the fullest satisfaction in the knowledge that my cookbook is practical and that it will be very useful to every housewife in her daily life."



"The Vilna Vegetarian Cookbook" by Fania Lewando, translated by Eve Jochnowitz, is published by Schocken Books (2015), $30.

Dwares JCC Golf Classic breaks fundraising record

BY HILLARY SCHULMAN
hschulman@jewishallianceri.org

After weeks of rain, the sun finally shone brightly on June 6, for the Jewish Alliance's 31st Annual Dwares JCC Golf Classic. More than 100 golfers had a terrific outing at this year's new tournament location – Alpine Country Club, in Cranston. They agreed that Alpine's course lived up to its reputation as one of the state's finest.

The event grossed more than $100,000 – a record high for the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. Funds raised will be put toward programs and services housed in the Dwares JCC, such as PJ Library, J-Space after-school program, along with summer J-Camp and Early Childhood Center scholarships. The tournament was co-chaired by Rick Granoff and Jamie Pious, who headed a committee of Cindy Feinstein, Mehdi Khosrovani, Mayer Levitt, Rob Sherwin, Aaron Simon and Jeff Vogel.

Players were greeted with a swag bag at registration, and enjoyed a barbecue lunch before heading out to the course. D.F. Pray and NEMD Architects sponsored the tournament's lunch and dinner.

After the round of golf was over, participants met inside the clubhouse for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a lively auction, emceed by Jewish Alliance President and CEO Jeffrey Savit. Auction prize winners included Pious, Norman Gordon, Sherwin, Savit, and Will Tsonos.

Following the auction and dinner, Michelle Cicchitelli, vice president of Alliance programming, spoke about summer J-Camp at the Dwares JCC and the positive effects Jewish camp has on children and their families. Her speech was followed by a Fund-a-Need-style auction, where attendees gave money toward J-Camp scholarships that assist campers in having a life-changing summer experience. In total, Fund-a-Need raised $10,250 – creating an auction total of nearly $20,000 – another record for the Golf Classic.

Co-chair Pious was very pleased with the event. "I really want to thank the sponsors, the committee and the staff at Alpine Country Club for making this year's tournament the best ever, and I'm already looking forward to next year. This tournament is truly a can't-miss event!"

Co-chair Granoff agreed, "The success of this great charity Alliance golf outing was the result of great committee teamwork, a well-run golf day at Alpine, along with superb food, and a well-run tournament. A record day of fundraising over $100,000 was the icing on the cake."

The results of the day were announced during dinner:

- The foursome winning low gross with a score of 68: Michael Savit, Rich Weiner, David Rosenblatt and Jay Shapiro.
- The foursome winning 1st net for men with a score of 57: Mayer Levitt, Stephen Salloway, Ken Kirsch and Richard Licht.
- The foursome winning 2nd net for men with a score of 58: Bob Kent, Jason Costa, Ed Thomsen and Henry Silva.
- The foursome winning 3rd net with a score of 60: David Katzen, Norman Gordon, Stuart Schneiderman and Bob Loiselle.
- The foursome winning 1st net for women or mixed groups with a score of 54: Michael Walker-Jones, Dan Hamel, Kristen Nicole Walker and Paul Nadeau.
- The foursome winning 2nd net for women or mixed groups with a score of 60: Tom Humphreys, Richard Mittleman, Susan Kiernan and Scott Bielecki.
- Winner of the straightest drive: Sheli Borges.
- Winner of closest to the pin for men: Rich Weiner.
- Winner of closest to the pin for women: Cathy Oresman.
- Winner of the Hit the Green contest: Dave McShane.

Participants left the event pleased with the results. Jeff Brier said, "This was the best pace of play I've ever experienced at a charity tournament." Cindy Feinstein also enjoyed the tournament. "Great day on the links ... can't wait until the next Alliance golf tournament!"



PHOTOS | FRAN OSTENDORF

Judy Mann, Mindy Wachtenheim, Marilyn Gitlin, Lois Robbin, Susan Fink and, seated, Carol Stupell,



Russell Robinson, Jeff Brier, Ed Rotmer and Dick Silverman

Attendees felt good about the whole day, knowing that they contributed to sustaining our local Jewish community.

HILLARY SCHULMAN is a development associate at the Jewish Alliance.



Event co-chairs Rick Granoff, left, and Jamie Pious.



Jeff Vogel gets in some putting practice.

International intrigue at Books on the Beach Author Luncheon

BY TOBY ROSSNER

The Rhode Island Chapter of Hadassah will celebrate its sixth annual Books on the Beach Author Luncheon on Tuesday, Aug. 9, in the elegant ballroom of OceanCliff, in Newport.

This year's authors, B.A. Shapiro and Talia Carner, will mingle with guests, introduce their new novels, and sign purchased books. Proceeds will support Hadassah.





Talia Carner
"Hotel Moscow"

This is a thought-provoking novel that tells the compelling story of Brooke Fielding, a daughter of Holocaust survivors, who travels to post-glasnost Russia to teach entrepreneurial skills to Russian businesswomen. There, she finds herself embroiled in a perilous mob conspiracy that could destroy her. In a city where capitalism is still a dirty word, neighbors spy on neighbors, and the new economy is in the hands of a few dangerous men. Nothing Brooke does goes unnoticed – and a mistake in her past may now compromise her future.

A moving and rich novel, "Hotel Moscow" is an eye-opening portrait of post-Communist Russia and a profound exploration of faith, friendship and heritage.

B.A. Shapiro
"The Muralist"

"The Muralist" is a poignant exploration of morality, resourcefulness, and imagination.

– ***Sarah Rachel Egelman, book reviewer***

Spellbinding! With a starry cast (Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Willem de Kooning, Lee Krasner, even Eleanor Roosevelt), fans of Shapiro's earlier art-mystery hit, "The Art Forger," will not be disappointed."

– ***William Landay, author***

A political artist focusing on the budding Abstract Expressionist movement, Alizée Benoit disappears; 70 years later, her great-niece, Danielle Abrams, decides to find out why.

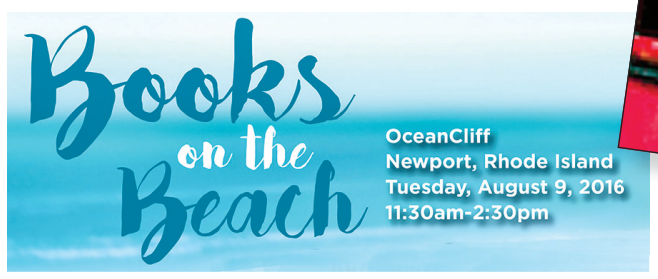
B.A. Shapiro appeals to readers who are interested in a culture that is foreign and



intriguing. "The Muralist" is the story of a passionate and brilliant young artist caught in the political maelstrom of the early 1940s in the U.S. and Europe. Decades later, this artist learns that she is connected to Danielle Abrams, who tries to solve a very personal mystery.

The novel flows nicely between the protagonists, highlighting the differences and the similarities between them and the worlds they inhabit.





Details, details, details

The Books on the Beach Author Luncheon will be held at OceanCliff, 65 Ridge Road, Newport, on Aug. 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The cost is $60 and includes a grilled salmon or vegetarian napoleon lunch. Parking is free. Reservations must be made by July 25.

Options for reserving and payment:

- Fill out the reservation form and pay online as directed at www.hadassah.org/rhodeisland.
- Fill out the registration form on the invitation you received in the mail and send it back with your check.
- If you did not get a printed invitation, you can still reserve by mail. Mail your check, payable to R.I. Hadassah, along with your name, the names of your guests, any table seating preferences, and menu choices for you and your guests to:

Author Luncheon RI
Hadassah
50 Cindyann Drive
East Greenwich, RI 02818.

If you have questions or would like to receive an invitation in the mail, call 401-463-3636 or email rhodeislandchapter@hadassah.org. Identify yourself and leave your phone number and mailing address; an invitation will be mailed to you.





Top officials put a Jewish stamp on the Rio Olympics

BY MARCUS MORAES

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) – Mazel tov! That's perhaps how the big shots in charge of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, the first to take place in South America, will toast victories when the competition gets underway Aug. 5.

Three of the top officials of the Rio 2016 Organizing Committee, including its president, Carlos Arthur Nuzman, are Jewish.

But in the run-up to the games, there have been more "*oy gevalts*" than mazel tovs as organizers deal with reports of unfinished venues, polluted swimming and sailing sites and, most of all, concerns about the mosquito-borne Zika virus.

In an interview with JTA, Nuzman said the number of Zika cases in Rio has dropped sharply in recent weeks, and is expected to fall even further during the dry months of the Brazilian winter, as Rio 2016 organizers emphasized at a news conference on June 7. Last month, the World Health Organization said there is no public health justification for postponing or canceling the Games.

"None of the top athletes have declared not to come. If there's a second-layer one who won't come, good for him," an irritated Nuzman told JTA.

One of Brazil's most prominent sports figures, Nuzman, 77, is a former president of the Brazilian Volleyball Confederation and has been president of the Brazilian Olympic Committee since 1995.

Nuzman preferred to talk about the robust Jewish connections at the games, including a ceremony to honor the 11 Israelis murdered by Palestinian terrorists at the Munich Olympics in 1972, the Israeli company that is providing security for the games and his own deep ties – as an athlete, sporting official and Jew – to Brazilian sports.

"My connection with Judaism and with Israel is through sports," said Nuzman, who was part of the first Brazilian men's volleyball team in 1964 when the sport debuted at the Olympic Games. "I started my career playing at the Brazilian Israelite Club, and I have attended four Maccabiah Games in Israel."

The grandson of Russian immigrants, Nuzman was born in Rio, home to an estimated 25,000 Jews. He is an active member of the 440-family Conservative synagogue Congregacao Judaica do Brasil led by Rabbi Nilton Bonder, his nephew. Nuzman's father, Izaak, presided over the Rio Jewish federation, the Hebraica Club and the local Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal.

"He was one the greatest leaders of our Jewish community. He brought [David] Ben-Gurion and Golda Meir to Brazil," Nuzman boasted, noting the late prime ministers of Israel.

Nuzman relies on other prominent members of the local Jewish community as deputies. Sidney Levy, a business executive, is the Rio 2016 committee's chief executive officer and has a $2.2 billion budget to manage. Leonardo Gryner, a communications and marketing director who was part of the Rio 2016 bid, is deputy CEO.

"I have no connection to sports at all," Levy said in an interview published at the Keren Hayesod webpage. "My duty is totally business-related."

The Jewish trio at the helm of Rio 2016 is behind the ceremony to honor the Munich victims. The Aug. 14 event at Rio's City Hall will be led by the International Olympic Committee along with the Olympic committees of Israel and Brazil.

Four yeas ago, the IOC rejected appeals for a moment of silence at the opening ceremonies of the London Games in 2012, the 40th anniversary of the tragedy. Critics at the time were not appeased by various events marking the anniversary that took place at other venues.

The IOC also announced a special area in the Rio Olympic Village to commemorate the memory of all Olympians who have died. In addition, a moment of reflection in honor of all dead Olympians will be held during the closing ceremony.

"There will be no minute of silence at the opening ceremony," read an IOC note, frustrating a longtime request of families.

The widows of weightlifter Yossef Romano and fencing coach Andre Spitzer will instead light 11 candles at the City Hall event. The Israeli government will be represented by the minister of culture and sport, Miri Regev.

"The mayor will open the doors of his house in a gesture of great friendship with the Brazilian Jewish community and the whole people of Israel," Israel's honorary consul in Rio, Osias Wurman, told JTA. "We

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Get more greens in your diet with this healthy, tasty drink

BY STEPHANIE ROSS

What started out as a fad has morphed into a trend. With juice bars and smoothie shops popping up on street corners, in food courts and even on food trucks, it appears smoothies and juices are here to stay.

Cold, thick, green smoothies, in particular, are at the center of many diets, cleanses and health blogs. Packed with nutrition and easy to digest, these beverages are also rising to the top of celebrity endorsements.

Corinne Goff, a registered dietitian and licensed nutritionist who owns Be the Change Nutrition, in North Kingstown, believes green smoothies are an enticing way for people who struggle to eat vegetables to get additional nutrients.

"Drinking superfood smoothies increases the nutrient density of your diet," Goff says. "Greens are some of the most nutrient-dense foods on the planet, meaning they provide a large dose of nutrition for very few calories."

The three most commonly used leafy greens are spinach, kale and collard greens, and are all packed with vitamins A, C and K, as well as some B vitamins, iron and calcium. The smoothies are typically blended with milk, yogurt, water or coconut water, and fruit such as bananas, avocados or berries can be added for additional health benefits and hydration.

"The key is to use superfood smoothies to replace less healthy foods," Goff said. "If you can reduce lower-nutrient foods, such as refined sugar, flour and hydrogenated oils, and increase more whole-plant foods, you give your body a better opportunity to maintain a healthy body weight, more energy, better sleep, and a reduced risk of many diseases."





However, as with everything, green smoothies are great in moderation.

"For those who eat salads and/or a variety of vegetables daily, there really is no need to add green smoothies," Goff said. "Someone looking to incorporate green smoothies [also] needs to be mindful of their medication. Certain medications, like blood thinners, require a diet low in vitamin K. For those people, I would not recommend drinking green smoothies."

For those new to green smoothies and interested in incorporating them into their diet, starting off with spinach helps develop a taste for stronger-tasting greens such as kale, watercress and Swiss chard. There are also many green powders, like Amazing Grass, that contain additional green ingredients, like wheat grass, spirulina and chlorella.

"The ingredients of your smoothie depends on whether the smoothie itself is a meal or a beverage with food," Goff said. "For example, if you plan to drink a basic green superfood smoothie along with eating an omelet in the morning, that should satisfy your hunger since the eggs are a protein and fat source. To make your green smoothie a drinkable meal, be sure to add ingredients that contain protein and fat."

Examples of healthy fat and protein sources include peanut butter, almond butter, sunflower seed butter, walnuts, pumpkin seeds, chia seeds, coconut butter or a high-quality protein powder.

Given its bright green color, or, having your first green smoothie can be intimidating. But with the right ingredients, you're sure to enjoy this tasty and healthy drink.

Here's one to try:

Green Smoothie

1 cup spinach or kale, not packed
1 1/2 cups mixed frozen berries
2 tablespoons rolled oats
1 cup almond milk
1/2 banana
1 cup crushed ice

Blend it all together for two minutes and enjoy!

For more information on Corinne Goff, RD, LDN, and Be the Change Nutrition, visit btc-nutrition.com.

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

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Splash safely with these 9 swimming tips

BY AMICA INSURANCE

As days get longer and the temperature rises, more people will cool off in backyard pools with family and friends. However, it's important to ensure that safety is a priority.

According to the American Red Cross, more than 200 children drown in backyard swimming pools each year. Here are some tips from Pool Safely, a national public education campaign to reduce child drownings, and the American Red Cross:

• Never leave a child unattended in or near the water.
• Teach children how to swim.
• Have young or inexperienced swimmers wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket.
• Teach children to stay away from drains.
• Ensure all pools and spas – both in the backyard and at public places – have compliant drain covers.
• Install proper barriers, covers and alarms on and around the pool or spa.
• Regularly test and adjust the chemical levels to minimize the risk of ear aches, rashes or more serious diseases.
• Know how to perform CPR on children and adults.

Parents and homeowners, it is your responsibility to establish and enforce rules and safe behaviors.

Top 10 reasons men put off doctor visits

And 10 reasons why they should go

BY THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

It's not a myth that some men refuse to go to the doctor regularly. The American Heart Association (AHA) offers these 10 reasons why many men skip this important appointment. And it presents 10 ways to counter those reasons and get yourself or a person you care about to see a doctor.

"I don't have a doctor."

Step one toward staying healthy is finding a doctor you trust. But you'll never know if you trust one unless you try. Check your insurance company or local listings for doctors in your area. Call their offices and ask questions, or check around online. It's also a good idea to check with friends and family for recommended doctors.

"I don't have insurance."

Everybody should have insurance under the Affordable Care Act. If you still don't, you can find all the information you need to get signed up online in the AHA Consumer Health Care section (bitly/1hXP6X6)

"There's probably nothing wrong."

You may be right but … you're not a doctor. That's why you need one, to be sure. Some serious diseases don't have symptoms. High blood pressure is one, and it can cause heart attack and stroke. (That's why they call it "the silent killer.") High cholesterol is another often symptomless condition. Ditto diabetes. Finding a health problem early can make a huge difference in the quality and length of your life.

"I don't have time."

There are about 8,766 hours in a year, and you want to save … two? When those two hours could save your life if you really DO need a doctor? If you want to spend more time with your family, these two hours aren't the ones to lose.

"I don't want to spend the money."

It makes more sense to spend a little and save a lot than to save a little and spend a lot. If you think spending time with a doctor is expensive, try spending time in a hospital.

"Doctors don't DO anything."

When you see a barber, you get a haircut. When you see the dentist, your teeth get cleaned. But when you get a checkup, the doctor just gives you tests. It may seem like you don't get anything, but you do. You get news and knowledge that can bring better health, if you act on it.

"I don't want to hear what I might be told."

Maybe you smoke, drink too much, have put on weight. Even so, your doctor's there to help you. You can deny your reality, but you can't deny the consequences. So be smart: Listen to someone who'll tell you truths you need to hear. Be coachable.

"I've got probe-a-phobia."

You don't need a prostate cancer exam until you're 50. Even then, remember that your chances of survival are much better if it's caught early. So it's worth the exam. But it's only one small portion of a physical. Don't let one test stop you from getting all the benefits of an annual physical.

"I'd rather tough it out."

If pro athletes can play hurt and sacrifice themselves for the team, you ought to be able to suck it up, right? Wrong! The Game of Life is about staying healthy for a long time – a lifetime.

"My significant other has been nagging me to get a checkup."

OK, so you don't want to give in. But isn't it POSSIBLE you could be wrong? Give in on this one. See the doctor.

When it comes down to it, there are no good reasons not to see the doctor, only excuses. The American Heart Association encourages everyone to have an annual check-up. Don't wait. Schedule your annual physical today. Your heart is counting on you!

Learn more at www.heart.org/gettinghealthy.

About the American Heart Association: The American Heart Association is devoted to saving people from heart disease and stroke – America's No. 1 and No. 5 killers. We team with millions of volunteers to fund innovative research, fight for stronger public health policies, and provide lifesaving tools and information to prevent and treat these diseases. To learn more or to get involved, call 1-800-AHA-USA1, visit www.heart.org or call any of our offices around the country.



The importance of daily mindfulness

BY AMY SMALL

As flowers are popping up everywhere into bursts of color, it seems a good time of year to remind ourselves to "stop and smell the roses."

A quick Google search reveals that this phrase seems to have originated in the 1920s or '30s with a golfer named Walter Hagan. His quote is, "Don't hurry, don't worry. You're only here for a short visit. So be sure to stop and smell the flowers."

"Stop and smell the roses" is a phrase we might hear as we make our way through our busy lives, rushing from one task to the next. But why does it really matter? To stop and smell the roses is a mindful act, and mindfulness can shift our relationship with struggles and stress.

Mindfulness is "awareness of present experience with acceptance," according to the reference book "Mindfulness and Psychotherapy." It is what occurs when we take a moment to stop – we bring ourselves out of our busy day or our busy mind into the current moment. It gives our minds a break, which can help emotions and thoughts settle and become clearer.

"Mindfulness is a skill that allows us to be less reactive to what is happening in the moment," the book states.

"Smelling the roses" further allows awareness of the experience. Using our senses is a great way to become aware of our current experience. We spend much of our days in the past or the future through our thoughts, which help us make plans, do our jobs and function in our daily world. However, many struggles and stresses can come out of these thoughts, causing us to ruminate about the past or worry about the future. Our thoughts become a story in our minds of what has happened before, or what might happen, with little to no attention paid to what "is" in that moment.

According to "Mindfulness and Psychotherapy," "Suffering seems to increase as we stray from the present moment."

We can get out of our thoughts and into the present moment by seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and feeling.

Acceptance of the "now" is a powerful component of mindfulness. It seems easy to accept the sweet smell of roses, but what if the roses cause us to sneeze or a thorn pricks us? It may be more difficult to accept an experience that is considered unpleasant. However, "rejecting or clinging to what is occurring in the moment" increases suffering, while openhearted acceptance increases our sense of well-being, the book states.

So I invite you this summer, and always, to "stop and smell the roses." Find a time during your day to bring your attention to the present moment and to accept what "is." You could listen to the sounds of a busy street for a moment, look at the color of the sky, feel the rough bark of a tree, taste the tang of an orange, smell a rose. A daily practice of mindfulness supports a sense of well-being as we relate to the challenges and stresses in our lives.

AMY SMALL, LICSW, is a clinical and Kesher social worker at Jewish Family Service.



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Prayer and other "P" words to promote health and wellness



PATRICIA RASKIN

We all know that stress is part of our lives and, if not controlled, it can wreak havoc on our body, spirit and mind.

It's easier to manage stress when we are healthy. Several "P" words, including prayer, come to mind to remind us to take care of our health.

Plan: Creating a written plan helps ground our thoughts, making it easier to move from words to action.

Points of view – seeing them: When you "get into someone's head," and see things from his vantage point, it leads to better understanding, which helps reduce anger, frustration and stress.

Past experiences are lessons: Think about what causes you stress and ask yourself how you can prevent that from happening in the future.

Precious moments: These special positive moments create, weave and spin positive memories. Think and talk about these precious moments, and be grateful for them. "Count your blessings" really works; it brings you many more.

Prayer: When we attend services and pray, we are promoting good health.

In his Feb. 7, 2014, article "The Mind, the Brain and God," Rick Hanson, Ph.D., writes that we have "opportunities for self-directed neuroplasticity, for using the mind in targeted ways to change the brain, to change the mind for the better.

"… Most of them [opportunities] are the stuff of everyday life, such as building up the neural substrate of well-controlled attention through meditative practice. Or deliberately savoring positive experiences several times a day to increase storage in implicit memory, thus defeating the brain's innate negativity bias, which makes it like Velcro for negative experiences but Teflon for positive ones."

In a Huffington Post blog, "Why People Who Pray Are Healthier Than Those Who Don't," journalist Richard Schiffman points out these facts:

• During relaxed states, the body's metabolism decreases, the heart rate slows, blood pressure goes down, and our breath becomes calmer and more regular.

• Prayer and meditation increase levels of dopamine, which is associated with states of well-being and joy.

• Studies show that prayer boosts the immune system and helps to lessen the severity and frequency of a wide range of illnesses.

Schiffman concludes, "What science can tell us is that people who pray and meditate tend to be statistically more healthy and live longer than those who do not."

I know that whenever I pray, chant or sing at temple services or at home, there is a part of my brain that goes into a very calm, trance-like state. I feel comforted and peaceful.

So, obviously, there is much we can do for ourselves to reduce stress and maintain our health. Once we get into a healthy routine and see the benefits, the effort is minimal … and without stress.

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.



The United Congregational Church, Newport.

FROM PAGE 1 |

TOUR

welcome; they could worship, which was not true everywhere."

Newport, he says, was a "gumball of people all doing business together."

The next stop was the Trinity Episcopal Church, which Long described as "the heart of Newport."

"Back then, it really was the heartbeat of the city," he said of the church at 141 Spring St.

We were greeted by two cheerful women, Charlotte Johnson and Harle Tinney, who led the tour of the church and explained why it was the heart of the city.

"People came here to do business!" Tinney said. "It was a networking hub for people of all religions to come and do business."

Our tour guides provided thorough explanations of the church's quirky construction history and the symbolism behind each aspect of the building. It seems everything has a symbolic significance. The United Kingdom's Queen Elizabeth II is among the notables who have visited the landmark church.

Next was Long's home territory: the United Congregational Church. Much of the art in this church, including the stained glass windows and a wall-sized mural, integrates symbolic images from multiple religions. The windows, Long said, "symbolize letting the light of other religious beliefs shine through."

"Once you accept that [idea], that changes the world tremendously. [It] opens you up to a new world of ideas," he said. "It enriches one's own religious tradition."

The final stop was St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. This segment was quite short, as the church was closed during our tour, but one thing to note is that this is the famous marriage site of John and Jacqueline Kennedy.

This season's tours run on Sundays and Tuesdays from July to September. Tours, which begin at the Loeb Visitors Center at Touro Synagogue, 50 Spring St., should be booked in advance.

Tickets are $28 for adults and $20 for ages 6 to 21 and can be purchased online at www.4faiths.org, at the Newport Visitor Information Center, 23 America's Cup Ave., or at the Bowen's Wharf Pilot House. Four Faiths suggests arriving 30 minutes early to see the Loeb Visitors Center exhibit, which the tour does not cover.

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



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Covered-up chic: Modest swimwear is having a moment

BY LUCY COHEN BLATTER

JTA – Sara Wolf was running around a water park in an oversized T-shirt when she became acutely aware of the need for a "less frumpy" yet covered-up swimwear option. So she and Daniella Teutsch, a former fashion industry colleague, launched HydroChic, a swimwear company for women who want to enjoy the water and stay modest at the same time.

"The only options we were finding were these long, flowery dresses that just weren't our style or skin-tight surfing-style wetsuits," Wolf says.

The company specializes in casual, sporty mix-and-match tops and bottoms. The tops come in all sleeve lengths – from sleeveless to long sleeves – and the bottoms are pants, skirts, shorts or skorts of different lengths, too.

HydroChic, Wolf says, has grown by 20 percent every year since it started in 2007. And it's not alone – modest swimwear is taking off in a big way. In fact, according to the fashion website Refinery 29, some of the most stylish bathing suits of the season are of the more covered-up variety; some are even long-sleeved.

High-end designers like Tory Burch and Nanette Lepore are selling bathing suits with sleeves extending down to the wrists. Major retailers are in on the act, too: The offerings from Athleta, for example, as well as Land's End, run the gamut from swim dresses to shorts and rash guards.

"Every designer now makes tankinis and one-pieces," says Nicole Bruderer, co-owner of Lime Ricki Swimwear, a Utah-based company that specializes in bathing suits with more coverage, from high-waisted bikini bottoms to rash guards.

From evening gowns to streetwear and swimwear, modesty is having a bit of a moment. Modest bloggers are enjoying widespread popularity, while "style stars" such as Alexa Chung and Olivia Palermo are frequently seen wearing more covered-up looks. Clothing brands are increasingly selling modest clothing, from high-end labels like Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen's Elizabeth & James to modest-specific websites such as Modli to mainstream companies like Uniqlo. Even on red carpets, celebrities like Cate Blanchett and Julianne Moore are showing less skin.

"I would dare to say that there is a quiet social revolution taking place in which women are saying that they value privacy, and they are tired of unrealistic expectations about their bodies," Wolf says. "They are protesting being constantly bombarded with oversexualized messages. They want to be seen and heard for who they really are, their inner voice, and not just for a first physical impression."

Vintage-syle bathing suits, in particular, are making a comeback. (Taylor Swift, for one, is a fan of the retro look – she's known for donning high-waisted bikinis and has even been spotted in skirted numbers.)

But modesty, of course, is relative. Many of the season's chicest offerings aren't quite up to Orthodox Jewish standards, as they don't cover arms to the elbows or legs down to the knees. (There are counter trends in play, too, including the advent of the so-called "Brazilian bikini.") Still, for those who already were in the habit of showing less skin, suddenly they're not the odd woman out amid a sea of bare flesh.

"Thanks to the popularity of rash guards, you can blend in more when you wear these tops with more coverage," says Allison Josephs, the founder of the website Jew in the City.

For Josephs, who didn't grow up Orthodox, old habits die hard – she still dons a bikini when she's alone on the beach with her husband. But the modest skirt-and-top combinations are "great for throwing over my bikini and wearing in hotel pools and around mixed swimming. Though it's another layer, they're breathable layers that dry easily."

The increasing popularity of more modest swimwear is partially the result of increased awareness about sun safety and UV protection – after all, nobody wants skin cancer or wrinkles.

But whatever the reason, it's clear that covering up is a trend – and not just among religious women.

"When we started, about 85 percent of our customers were modern Orthodox," Wolf says. "Now I'd say that number is closer to 15 or 20 percent."

Lime Ricki's Bruderer, who runs her company with her sisters, was raised Mormon. (The religion has no explicit rule as to what is appropriate swim attire, she says, but Mormon women tend to steer clear of skimpy suits.) About half their customers are Mormon, she says.

"Bathing suits with more coverage are a trend right now," she says.

Jessica Rey, a Christian actress and designer, creates what she describes as Audrey Hepburn-inspired demure bathing suits, selling all sorts of skirts to go with them. While Rey Swimwear, like Lime Ricki's line, wouldn't tick the right boxes for the most observant Jewish women, her motto is "Who says it has to be itsy bitsy?"

In a video on YouTube titled "The Evolution of the Swimsuit," Rey says she wants people to understand that you can dress modestly without sacrificing fashion.

"Modesty isn't about hiding ourselves, it's about revealing our dignity," she says.



Swimwear by HydroChic

Bruderer says: "I think it's really empowering to women to know they can choose whatever they feel comfortable in."

And now, even for the most modest of dressers, "there are a lot more options," Josephs adds.

"When we started our company, we had mostly black simple options," says Rachel Tabbouche, who with her sister and mother runs Undercover Waterwear, a company with an array of Orthodox-approved swimwear. "But we've expanded and have all sorts of bright colors and different styles now."

Tabbouche's offerings are a long way from the black "skvimkleid," or swim dress, a muumuu-style outfit popular with Hasidic women. The garment was parodied on a popular YouTube video several years ago about a turban-wearing woman taking a trip to Miami with friends.

Tabbouche's family started Undercover Waterwear in 2002 after finding themselves hard-pressed to find fashionable, comfortable and modest options for their summers spent on the Jersey Shore.

The outfits are made of a chlorine-proof swim fabric just like ordinary bathing suits and are a far cry from the baggy T-shirts that women improvised with just a few years ago. Plus they have UPF 50+.

"Women always tell us that they have people coming over to them and asking where they got them," she says.

Business has grown, according to Tabbouche. And though "everything is in Hashem's hands," trends are working in their favor. "Modest women feel more comfortable to take risks in their fashion," she says.

As "more is more" sweeps the swimwear industry, the effect is twofold: religious women may feel more comfortable experimenting with different looks, and nonreligious women may feel more comfortable covering up more – and everyone looks chic.

"When we started, we associated modest with frumpy," Wolf says. "We didn't even want to use that word. But now, modest seems to be hottest."

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Annual meeting marks five years for Alliance

BY FRAN OSTENDORF
fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org

PROVIDENCE – Members of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island gathered in the meeting hall at Temple Beth-El the evening of June 15 for the Alliance's fifth annual meeting and received a warm welcome from Temple Beth-El's rabbis. Renovations at the Dwares Jewish Community Center made the change of venue necessary, but that didn't dampen attendance. Approximately 150 people gathered for the awards ceremony, leadership reports and board installation.

A moment of silence to remember the victims of the recent Orlando shootings was followed by "The Star Spangled Banner" and "Hatikvah" led by Chloe Savit. Beth-El's Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman welcomed the crowd, expressing his pride, as the new rabbi on the block, at the way in which the Alliance uplifts the community by its inclusion, welcome and support for all Jews.

Five awards were presented to community members recognized for going above and beyond community service.

Susan Odessa Froehlich received the Kipnis – Wilson/Friedland Award, honoring extraordinary women who have set a high standard for philanthropy and volunteerism. Froehlich, a speech and language pathologist, has been an active volunteer at the Alliance for many years and will now serve as the vice chair for philanthropy. She is a second-generation recipient of this award; her mother, Elaine Odessa, was the first woman in Rhode Island to receive the award. "Volunteerism is in my DNA," she said.

Andrea Katzman received the Lea Eliash/Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Education, honoring outstanding classroom-based teachers in formal Jewish educational settings. Katzman, a Kansas native, teaches Pre-K at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island. She has lived in Israel and taught at Rhode Island College and now is an instructor at Hebrew College in Newton, Massachusetts.

Marc Gertsacov received the Riesman Leadership Development Award, designed to inspire and encourage emerging leadership. Recipients attend the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America. Gertsacov, an attorney, is the vice chair of community development for the Alliance and a member of other Alliance committees.

Rabbi Jeffrey Goldwasser received the Norman D. and Flo Tilles Community Relations Council Award, established to stimulate and encourage leaders and emerging leaders who have performed significant service to the Community Relations Council of the Alliance. Goldwasser came to Temple Sinai from Florida in 2014. He's concentrated on interfaith relations and dialogue as well as spirituality. He is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism's Joint Commission on Worship, Music and Religious Living.



Jeffrey Savit thanks Manny daRosa.



Rabbi Noah Karp talks with Rabbi Jeffrey Goldwasser



Chloe Savit



PHOTOS | ARIEL BROTHMAN AND BRIAN SULLIVAN

Geraldine Foster, Harold Foster and Sara Foster listen to the program.

Susan Leach DeBlasio received the Joseph W. Ress Community Service Award, recognizing a worthy individual who has demonstrated exemplary leadership at the Alliance, local or national Jewish agencies and the general Rhode Island community. A corporate attorney, DeBlasio has contributed her professional and personal skills to a number of Jewish and Rhode Island communal organizations, including the University of Rhode Island Hillel, Jewish Seniors Agency, Jewish Family Service and Temple Emanu-El, as well as the Alliance. In the community, she's been active in the Rhode Island Bar Association and the Rhode Island Bar Foundation among other organizations.

This meeting recognized a change of leadership of the Alliance. Sharon Gaines reflected on three years as chair of the board, saying she hoped she lived up to her mission. (You can read her remarks on Page 9.)

Jeffrey Savit, president and CEO of the Alliance, thanked Gaines, and also recognized retiring chief financial officer Manuel daRosa for his 17 years of service to the institution.

Savit's remarks highlighted the tremendous successes of the past year.

"We once again have been able to sustain the annual community campaign; opened the breathtakingly moving new Holocaust Memorial; drafted and championed the Rhode Island legislation that will provide mandatory Holocaust and Genocide Education in our middle and high schools; launched the tremendous Lenny Krayzelberg Swim Program and had our most successful golf tournament in our history," he said.

He went on to say that the Alliance has "directly served and/or supported upward of 1,200 financially and socially vulnerable community members via our Living on the Edge Initiative." A report on the initiative is expected later in the summer.

Savit also highlighted the capital campaign that has raised the money to renovate the JCC. "By the beginning of next year, the Dwares will be totally accessible, secure and inclusive," he said. And next year, the annual meeting will take place in a renovated Baxt Social Hall.



Ronald Markoff and Marc Gertsacov.

Highlighting the "joy with the oy," Savit mentioned that half the Rhode Island Jewish population remains economically vulnerable and talked about the anti-Semitic acts of the last nine months, as well as potential community turmoil. "We are striving to achieve a cohesive Jewish community that allows for diversity and open embraces," he said, "not one that shuts off dialogue and persecutes others who think differently or offer contrary opinions."

The new board members and leaders were installed by Rabbi Sarah Mack of Temple Beth-El.

Mitzi Berkelhammer, board chair, gave her last report as outgoing vice chair of philanthropy on donations to the various campaigns that totaled $8.1 million.

Then, outlining her thoughts on her installation, she said, "I'm happy and humbled to be sharing this evening with you. I look forward to serving as the Alliance board chair for the next three years."

She continued, "We will introduce a new strategic vision for philanthropy and programming that will attract and please all the members of our Jewish community."

FRAN OSTENDORF is the editor of The Jewish Voice.

New Alliance chair started her career in the JCC nursery school

BY FRAN OSTENDORF
fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org

Mitzi Berkelhammer has deep roots in the Rhode Island community, and her commitment to the Jewish community runs just as deep.

She believes strongly in the importance of philanthropy.

A Providence native and a lifelong member of Temple Beth-El in Providence, Berkelhammer has been an active volunteer in the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's women's division since 1977, when she became involved with a then-active young women's division.

"I think it's important to find your volunteer or philanthropic passion," she said.

As the divisions combined, she took on active leadership roles. Most recently, she was vice president of philanthropy for the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

Berkelhammer and her husband, Bob, a Providence attorney, have three grown children and three grandchildren. The family is scattered now, but one daughter is moving back to Providence with her family. Berkelhammer beams as she says that her youngest grandchild will start at the David C. Isenberg Early Childhood Center this fall. She attended nursery school at the Jewish Community Center, too. And so did her children. "That makes three generations," she said.



Mitzi and Bob Berkelhammer.

With a passion for involvement, it's no surprise that Berkelhammer is now taking over as chair of the board of the Alliance.

And it's also not a surprise that she wants to focus on getting "the young and the in-between" involved, and on the endowment. The two issues dovetail.

"We are an aging population in Rhode Island," she said. "It is important that we continue to have a strong Jewish community."

She said she hopes to help teach the younger generation that "there are ways to endow [donations] at a younger age that are less expensive than at an older age."

She said she believes that when people see the work that's done locally and where the dollars go overseas, they will be inspired to get involved.

One of the ways to do this is to encourage more participation in missions. Berkelhammer, who has been on a number of missions, says "It's important to see the work we do all over the world."

Even if you go on a Jewish tour overseas, you don't see the kind of behind-the-scenes work that you see on a mission. She mentioned the recent mission to Budapest and Berlin, where the group learned about dissension in the Jewish community of Berlin.

"We are an aging population in Rhode Island – it is important that we continue to have a strong Jewish community."

Her immediate goal, though, "is to get the new boards and executive committee up and running. And help the campaign get off to a good start."

"I think we have the most wonderful staff and professionals we could ever ask for. I know the staff so well, I don't have that learning curve. We have tons of very dedicated volunteers here."

And she's excited about the renovations of the building she has known for so long.

"I'm looking forward to a beautiful new building," she said. "I'm hoping it reenergizes Jewish activity and life here."

FRAN OSTENDORF is the editor of The Jewish Voice.

FROM PAGE 15

RIO

are deeply moved. Symbolically falling on *Tisha b'Av*, one of the saddest days of the Hebrew calendar, the event will be a unique moment."

The security of the 12,000 athletes and anticipated 500,000 visitors is among the most sensitive issues for organizers, and the Israeli company International Security and Defense Systems (ISDS) won the international tender to secure the games. ISDS has coordinated security at previous Olympics and World Cups, and will provide services from consulting to security supply systems.

"It's an honor for ISDS to be the very first ever Israeli group to be part of the Olympic family," Leo Gleser, ISDS president and a former Mossad agent, told JTA.

Last November, a French national identified as an executioner in ISIS propaganda videos tweeted, "Brazil, you are our next target." Brazil's counterterrorism director, Luiz Alberto Sallaberry, recognized the statement as credible.

"I can't speak much about security or it won't be security anymore," Nuzman told JTA.

Brazil has long regarded itself as an unlikely target of extremists thanks to its historical standing as a nonaligned, multicultural nation. Security experts have warned that many Brazilian officials do not realize how big a stage the Olympics is for anyone seeking to sow terror.

Israel will make its 16th appearance at the Olympics by bringing to Rio its largest delegation ever, with nearly 50 athletes for the Olympics and another 50 for the 2016 Paralympic Games immediately following. Some 10,000 Israelis are expected to make it to Rio to root for their national heroes. A temporary Israeli consulate will be established in Rio to serve the Israeli population during the games.

"The local Jewish community enjoys seeing the Olympics team in international cooperation with other countries. The federal police have very well-trained staff. We are very optimistic," Octavio Aronis, head of security of the Brazilian Israelite Confederation, told JTA.

Rio's Jewish federation president, Paulo Maltz, is more guarded. "There is always a first time, it has happened twice in Argentina and Brazil is not free of it," he told JTA, citing the Buenos Aires bombings of the Israeli Embassy in 1992 and the AMIA Jewish center in 1994. "We'll be on total alert."

Schools will be closed during the Olympics following a Rio municipality decision to move the winter school vacations from July to August, in large part to reduce traffic.

"It's a relief," Maltz said.

Those who make it to Rio will be able to take part in two special Shabbat ceremonies. Some 300 guests are expected at Bonder's synagogue, including Regev, the Israeli sports minister. Chabad will host a Shabbat event during the Paralympics.

In a joint educational project around Rio 2016, students from four Jewish schools and four municipal public schools will produce a book about the Munich murders and the Olympic spirit.

"Children must understand the evil caused by terrorism," said Sergio Niskier, one of the project organizers and a former Jewish federation president.

The Israeli singer Ester Rada, whose parents were Ethiopian immigrants, will perform at official sites where fans can watch the sporting action on big screens.

"It's an example of the polyvalent, multicultural aspect of the Jewish state, which is formed by over 70 different origins that make up the Israeli society," said Wurman, the honorary consul.



‘Biblical sheep’ heading to Israel with help of El Al, Canadian couple

TORONTO (JTA) – A rare breed of sheep said to be descended from Jacob’s flock referenced in the Bible will be shepherded to Israel with the help of a Canadian Jewish couple and Israel’s national airline.

El Al announced recently that it will “heavily subsidize” the costs of shipping the so-called biblical sheep “from a major North American airport.”

The announcement came several months after the Agriculture Ministry in Israel approved the importing of the flock, which is subject to quarantine in Canada and Israel.

The flight is expected to take place in late August or early September.

The project is the brainchild of Gil and Jenna Lewinsky of British Columbia, owners of the Jacob sheep, which are said to be descended from the patriarch’s flock noted in the Book of Genesis. The sheep are said to be unique for their horns, numbering two to six.

They are the only animals in the world to have the biblical description of speckled skin, spots on their wool, and bands on their ankles and knees, the Lewinskys said in a crowdfunding campaign they launched for their organization, Friends of the Jacob Sheep.

As of June 20, the couple has raised $470 to help offset costs.

The Lewinskys believe the sheep must “return” to Israel to fulfill biblical prophecy. They cite Rav Amram Vaknin, a mystic rabbi living in southern Israel who says he has visions predicting the future. Vaknin “has said that the Jacob Sheep must return to the Land of Israel to help with the Geula (redemption)!” according to the Lewinskys.

The deal was brokered by Israel’s embassy in Ottawa, which last month publicly offered its support to the effort. In February, Israel’s ambassador to Canada, Rafael Barak, visited the family’s farm in Abbotsford, about 40 miles east of Vancouver, and reportedly witnessed the birth of a lamb.

The flock currently consists of 113 animals – 18 adult rams, 62 adult ewes and the rest lambs. All will be settled on the Golan Heights.

The Lewinskys say the sheep are extinct in Israel.



Gil and Jenna Lewinsky posing with their "biblical sheep"

They believe the animals came with Jacob through Canaan to Egypt, then with the Exodus to North Africa, and from there to Spain, England and then to North America.

“It will be the first time since biblical times that the Jacob sheep will be reintroduced to the land of Israel,” they said.

FUN AND FACTS FOR KIDS

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

DID YOU KNOW: CAMP JORI WAS ORIGINALLY THE JEWISH ORPHANAGE OF RHODE ISLAND?

The Jewish Orphanage of R.I., or JORI, had its roots in 1907, when the South Providence Hebrew Congregation split and Congregation Machzeka Hadas was founded by Howard Paster. The congregation had land with two houses, so it started an orphanage. There were actually two competing orphanages, run by two different groups, that merged in 1910. By 1924 the group had built a new building on Summit Avenue (now part of the Miriam Hospital) on the East Side of Providence. In 1936, to provide a summer experience for the children, the director of the orphanage Marcus Stollerman began to work on opening a summer camp. The board rented a house for the summer at Cronin’s Beach on Point Judith Road, near Scarborough Road. In 1937, Benjamin Brier, chairman of the camp committee, bought land at Point Judith for $4,250; building began in the spring of 1937, and the camp opened July 15. There were classes in first aid, art, gardening, baseball, volleyball and swimming. After the orphanage closed in 1942, the camp continued to thrive and as it does today.



WHAT ARE ACRONYMS?

An acronym is a word made out of the first or first few letters of a phrase. It comes from the Greek: akron, meaning end or tip, and onoma, meaning name. Today we use acronyms all the time. Sometimes they are pronounced as one word, and sometimes just as initials. As you can see from this article, JORI was originally Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island.

Here are some phrases that have become acronyms. See if you can figure out the acronyms? Which are pronounced as words and which a group of letters?

MEANING	ACRONYM
a. Radio Detection And Ranging (1940s)	_____ SONAR
b. National Aeronautic And Space Agency	_____ SCUBA
c. Rhode Island College	_____ URI
d. Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus	_____ RADAR
e. National Football League	_____ RIC
f. Sound Navigation And Ranging	_____ NFL
g. Light Amplification By Stimulated Emission Of Radiation	_____ NASA
h. University of Rhode Island	_____ LASER

This is a picture from Sept. 3, 1940, from Providence’s Evening Bulletin newspaper, found in the archives of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association archives; it emphasizes the good fortune of the JORI children compared to what was happening in Europe during World War II.

“In a few days these youngsters at Camp JORI, conducted by the Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island, at Point Judith, will join the post-Labor Day trek back to the city. While other boys and girls of their race across the seas are being persecuted, these children have been having a good time of it, swimming at Scarborough, hiking, and taking part in all of the other outdoor activities on the camp program. Particularly popular has been the story hour illustrated in the fireplace group in which Superintendent Marcus Stollerman and some of his charges listen to the tales read by Mrs. Stollerman.”

Where you live can affect how rich you feel

Do you find yourself treading water financially even with a relatively healthy household income? Even with your new higher-paying job and your spouse's promotion, do you still find it difficult to get ahead, despite carefully counting your pennies? Does your friend or relative halfway across the country have a better quality of life on less income? If so, the cost of living might be to blame.


BARBARA KENERSON

The cost of living refers to the cost of various items necessary in everyday life. It includes things like housing, transportation, food, utilities, health care and taxes.

Singles, couples, and families typically have many of the same expenses – everyone needs shelter, food and clothing, for example – but families with children pay more in most categories and might have the added expenses of child care and tuition.

The Economic Policy Institute (epi.org) has a family budget calculator that lets you enter your household size (up to two adults and four children) along with your ZIP code to see how much you would need to earn to have an "adequate but modest" standard of living in any geographic area.

What areas have the highest cost of living? It's no secret that the East and West Coasts have some of the highest costs. According to the Council for Community and Economic Research, the most expensive U.S. urban area to live in last year was New York City, followed by Honolulu; San Francisco; Brooklyn, New York; and Orange County, California.

When it comes to ranking by state, Rhode Island has the ninth-highest cost of living, while Massachusetts is fifth.

Factors that influence the cost of living

Let's look in more detail at some of the common factors that make up the cost of living.

Housing: When an area is described as having "a high cost of living," it usually refers to housing costs. Looking to relocate to the Silicon Valley from the Midwest? You better hope for a big raise; the mortgage you're paying now on your modest three-bedroom home might get you a walk-in closet in this technology hub, where house prices last spring climbed to a record-high $905,000 in Santa Clara County, $1,194,500 in San Mateo County and $690,000 in Alameda County, according to the San Jose Mercury News.

Student loan debt, while not tied to the cost of living, plays a role in housing affordability. Student debt, both for borrowers and co-signers, such as parents, is increasingly affecting housing choices and living situations. For some borrowers, monthly student loan payments can approximate a second mortgage.

Transportation: Do you have access to reliable public transportation or do you need a car? Younger adults often favor public transportation and supplement with such services as Uber, Lyft, and Zipcar. But for others, a car (or two or three), along with related costs such as gas, insurance, taxes and maintenance, is a necessity. How far is your work commute? Do you drive 100 miles round-trip every day or do you telecommute? Needing to buy a new (or used) car every few years can significantly impact your bottom line.

Utilities: The cost of utilities varies by location, weather, usage and infrastructure. For example, people who live in colder climates might pay more to heat their homes in the winter than residents of warmer climates do to cool their homes in the summer.

Taxes: Your tax bite will vary by state. Seven states have no income tax: Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. In addition, property taxes and sales taxes vary significantly by state – and even by county – and states have different rules for taxing Social Security and pension income.

Miscellaneous: If you have children, other things that can affect your bottom line are the costs of child care, extracurricular activities and tuition.

To move or not to move

Remember The Clash song "Should I Stay or Should I Go?" Well, there's no question your money will go further in some places than in others. If you're thinking of moving to a new location, cost-of-living information can make your decision more grounded in financial reality.

There are several online cost-of-living calculators that let you compare your current location to a new location. The U.S. State Department has compiled a list of resources on its website, at http://www.state.gov/m/fsi/tc/79700.htm.

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



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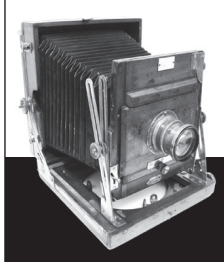
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‘Wandering Israeli’ leaves Lima airport after 3 weeks

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) – A 57-year-old woman dubbed “the wandering Israeli” by Peruvian media left Lima’s international airport after living in the arrivals area for 19 days and making headlines across the country.

Olga Babaev’s story was reported by Peruvian newspapers and TV channels, which likened it to Steven Spielberg’s film “The Terminal.” A nearly eight-minute broadcast June 19 followed her as she left the airport and visited a medical clinic, went on a sightseeing tour and called her son in the United States, whom she hadn’t seen for 22 years.

During her stay at the airport, which started when she landed May 29, the Israeli Embassy in Lima offered her assistance, but Babaev refused it, according to consul Limor Sherman. A Peruvian Jewish institution offered her shelter, which she also refused.

“I don’t want to go back to Israel. I don’t have anyone there. Also, I have problems with my family name, which is not Jewish,” Babaev told the El Comercio newspaper last week. “I want to go to a warm place.”

Peru is Babaev’s second stop in South America. After begging for food for two months on the streets of Rio, she was rescued by Jewish volunteers in May thanks to a rapid response initiated on Facebook. Soon after being taken to an upscale Jewish elder home, she decided to leave. She was then given a one-way ticket to Lima by a local Jewish-owned travel agency.

Born in Azerbaijan, Babaev reportedly made *aliyah* in 1991. She said she had suffered discrimination in Israel as a presumed Russian immigrant. Her situation and plans since leaving the Lima airport are unknown.

On June 20, Peruvian banker and former prime minister Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, whose father was Jewish, was elected Peru’s president. A renowned pathologist and one of Peru’s leading public health administrators, his father fled Berlin in 1933 because his family was Jewish.

Peru is home to some 3,000 Jews in a population of nearly 30 million.

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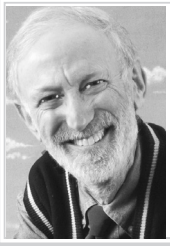
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R.I. author blends history, fiction in 'Eavesdropping in Oberammergau'

We met for coffee to discuss her book, its past and its future. She handed me an advance copy of "Eavesdropping in Oberammergau": a black and white cover photograph of a cliff and low-lying houses, and a red Gothic letter "O" – a handsome volume categorized as "Fiction/Holocaust."



SKETCHBOOK

MIKE FINK

We talked about the process of writing, of publishing, of distribution. Salk hadn't wanted to mail her book to me, she preferred to rendezvous and to talk about the research and the history of the project.

"I can understand, and accept, a range of viewpoints about the argument that fiction and World War II shouldn't mix. But there is also freedom of expression within our American culture.

"I have combined much of my Army-brat childhood with my study of the character I name Stefan. His actual biography is that this Munich native, born Jewish, converted to Catholicism in the early Nazi days.

"Of course, in the Krystallnacht 1938 prelude to the Great Catastrophe, he was [nonetheless] deported to Dachau, but, like some lucky others of that era, he was released.

"After his Kindertransport sojourn in England, he somehow, for some reason of his own, returned to Germany ... and to Oberammergau."

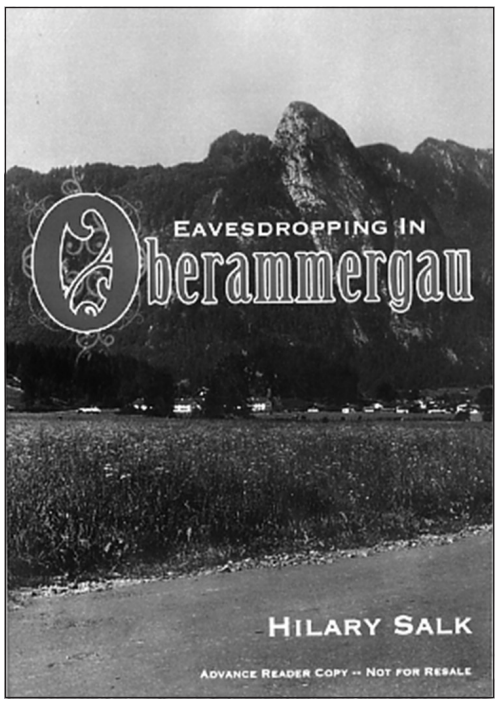
In this haunted realm in Germany, the renowned, or infamous, "Passion Play" continued to be performed publicly throughout the 1950s, despite protests from Jewish organizations. The play was, and is, a notorious and inflammatory indictment of Jews for a villainous conspiracy against Jesus.

The story that Hilary Salk has written is about a child of a military-occupation postwar family. The character is close to her own authorial direct experience; as a child, she made friends with her neighbors and yet, at the same time, observed and interpreted the ironies and contradictions of the era of her girlhood.

The "why" of each question must remain a mystery, like all poetic, or fictional, investigation: Problems aren't solved by poets or writers, only posed by them.

I have had friendly quarrels with Salk, who was my neighbor both in Providence and in Narragansett. I rather agree with Elie Wiesel that Holocaust testimony has forever destroyed "literature" and that those who bring thoughtful imagination to the issues of that era do more harm than good.

The naked truth has the dignity of the witnessed observation, untarnished and unvarnished.



Nevertheless, and on the other hand, I also admire the courage and commitment of Salk, not only in putting pen to paper but in finding folks to organize and produce her self-published work.

"It is the democratic fact that as the big business of selling books has centered on self-help vulgarities and popular escapisms, it becomes more and more the burden of thinking people to self-publish to share their knowledge, their hopes, the legacy of their generation's learning, with the literate society around them." I said something like that, to that effect. And I meant it.

From the first page of "Eavesdropping in Oberammergau," I noted with respect and high regard some excellent phrases and the simplest of word choices and combinations. "Free and responsible" – what a great, provocative, existential pair of adjectives! Most of us think of freedom as an escape from responsibility, somehow, but not Hilary Salk.

On every page of this novel, you will find something surprising, challenging, intimate, elevating. And the "blur" – if you will allow me to use such an inadequate word – between fact and fiction bothered me less and less as I perused the pages.

This is a brave book, confronting the guilt we all must face up to, our collective "survivor guilt" we share as the years, the decades, the eras, glide by us, nearing the brink of the void of human history.

Although Salk and I are not all that far away in years, the Cold War nevertheless affected me less. I am a child of the Depression and the Duration, already too marked by its imprint to accept the fake liberal movements of the Repression, in which sentimental "good will" and maudlin television befog the cruelties of those decades of destruction, devastation, and dehumanization.

I look up to my friend for her creativity and recommend her wonderful volume of adventures in space, time, and introspection. I also look forward to further conversations with her as we bird-watch on the beach or meet over a cup – or glass – of coffee in Wakefield, whether or not we ever find common ground between her search for peace in some sense and my own endless outrage!

"Eavesdropping in Oberammergau" can be purchased at www.barnesandnoble.com.

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

Brooke German joins JDC young adult board

This year, for the first time in its history, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), the global Jewish humanitarian group and a partner of Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, changed its bylaws and added 15 young adult board members to its Board of Directors.

Brooke German, a Rhode Island native now living in New York City, is a member of the first cohort of young adults to serve on the JDC Board of Directors.

"Joining the nation's brightest minds and biggest hearts to discuss our responsibilities – both as Jews and global citizens – is humbling and empowering at once," said German.

"We are so proud that Brooke joins our inaugural group of young adult JDC Board Members. Her talents, passion, and commitment to Jewish life around the world represents the kind of fearless leadership we are looking to cultivate and learn from as an organization," said JDC Executive Vice President Sarah Eisenman, who is also executive director of JDC Entwine, JDC's young adult engagement platform.





Carolyn R. Botvin, 87

PAWTUCKET, R.I. – Carolyn R. (Elman) Botvin died June 17.



She was the wife of Burton "Sonny" Botvin for 68 years. Born in East Greenwich, daughter of the late Benjamin and Celia (Jacobson) Elman, she lived in both Rhode Island and Palm Beach, Fla. for many years

Mrs. Botvin was a member of Temple Beth-El in Providence and its Sisterhood, and Hadassah.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her sons, Jim Botvin and his wife, Shelley, of Warren and Robert Botvin and his wife, Jayne, of North Kingstown; and her grandchildren Michael and his wife, Rayna, Ben, Russell, and Rebecca. She was the mother of the late Nanci Botvin and sister of the late Arthur Elman and her twin sister Doris Charren.

Donations in her memory may be made to Temple Beth-El.

Jetta Brenner, 90

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Jetta (Sorgman) Brenner died June 15. She was born in Providence, and was the daughter of the late Jules and Florence (Fluster) Sorgman.

She was a celebrated hotelier and the first lady general manager of the Sheraton Hotel Corp. She managed the Sheraton Russell Hotel in New York City, and, after retirement, managed the Montauk Yacht Club in Montauk, New York.

She leaves a daughter, Kathy Brenner of Cambridge, Mass.; a son, Robert Brenner of Anchorage, Alaska; and three grandchildren, Jeffrey, Sarah and Bryan.

Contributions in her memory may be made to either Temple Beth-El's Library Fund or Johnson and Wales Culinary Archives and Museum.

Sylvia Kaplan, 89

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Sylvia Kaplan died June 11 at Steere House. She was the beloved wife of the late Stanley T. Kaplan.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Samuel and Bertha Gregerman, she had lived in Cranston for 60 years before recently moving to Providence.

Sylvia worked in her family bakery for 40 years. Devoted mother of Barry Kaplan and his wife, Pearl, of Cranston. Dear sister of the late Sidney, Milton, and Harriet Gregerman and Rose Kaufman. Loving grandmother of Jenny and Melissa. Cherished great-grandmother of Annabel, Coralie, Victoria, Benjamin and Nathaniel.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Steere House, 100 Borden St., Providence, R.I. 02903.

$20 million gift to help revitalize U.S. Holocaust museum

BY RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON (JTA) – An exhibit more than 20 years old against an iPhone: Docents at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum are increasingly noting the battle with hand-held devices to keep the interest of young people.

Now a $20 million gift to help revitalize the Washington, D.C., museum will aim to assist the docents while focusing on the challenges posed to democracies by rapid changes in technology.

Allan and Shelley Holt announced their grant for the Washington, D.C., museum on June 13 in honor of Allan Holt's parents, who are Holocaust survivors and about to celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary. Holt, an investment manager at the Carlyle Group, an influential Washington consulting firm, is also vice chairman of the museum's governing board.

The gift, one of the largest in the museum's history, will go toward a $540 million campaign aimed at revitalizing the museum, the museum said in a release.

In an interview, the museum's director, Sara Bloomfield, and chief program officer, Sarah Ogilvie, outlined areas where the money will help realign the museum's educational mission with the 21st century through a physical refurbishing and programmatic changes.

One emphasis is on new technologies and how they can be exploited for propaganda in an age when political messages spread rapidly through social media and other means, they told JTA.

"The new technology of the 1930s was the radio," Ogilvie said. "The Nazis tried to make sure every German family had one. We will be talking about new technologies and how young people were targets for the Nazis."

A central message of the museum since its 1993 opening – that democracies are more vulnerable than their citizens believe them to be – will become more pronounced, Bloomfield said.

"It's so important for an audience to see the failure of democratic institutions," she said.

"That lesson is in the exhibition, but we can make it more explicit," Bloomfield said, saying it was a critical message at a time of racially charged political rhetoric in the United States and abroad. "What we read about in the paper every day makes this history ever more relevant and more of a cautionary tale."



The "Tower of Faces," a central structure featuring photographs of victims and survivors of the Holocaust.

The changes and refurbishing, which will take place over five to seven years, also will address how audiences have been shaped by technology. Docents, among them Holocaust survivors, have reported in recent years that they have to compete with multiple distractions, including the hand-held devices.

"Some of them have expressed concern about keeping the attention of young people; they watch the distractions that can happen," Ogilvie said.

The museum may open avenues to interact with the exhibit through the devices now preoccupying the young visitors.

"You may be able to interact with a Holocaust survivor on your phone instead of texting," she said.

Ogilvie said attention spans have become shorter, another factor needing addressing.

"If you look back at TV shows from 1989," when the museum designed some of its video presentations, "pacing seems incredibly slow," she said.

Another "nuts and bolts" change," Ogilvie said, would be to the "Tower of Faces," a central structure featuring photographs of victims and survivors of the Holocaust. Some of them have faded, and the museum plans to return to the original negatives and digitize them.

Updates also would incorporate information made available since the museum's opening. Access to Russian archives post-Soviet collapse has revealed much more about the "Holocaust by bullets," the mass murders carried out by the Nazis in Soviet areas.

Bloomfield said Holt has been involved in the strategic planning.

His father is 96 and his mother is 93.

"This gift is an expression of our family's gratitude to this remarkable country, and most especially it honors my parents, all of my grandparents who were killed, and my mother's two sisters who survived with her," Holt said in a statement released by the museum.

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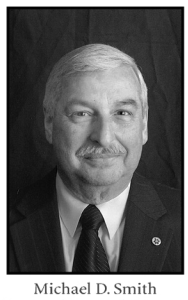
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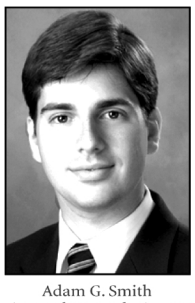
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NEAT, PHDS graduate

On Tuesday June 14, the New England Academy of Torah (NEAT) held its senior graduation. Zahava Rubin (Hartford, Connecticut), Minya Schochet (Providence), and Aviva Shooman (Sharon, Massachusetts) delivered graduation addresses that spoke glowingly of their years at NEAT. Also addressing the girls was Dr. Marc Diamond, president, Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, dean, and Rabbi Aaron Lapin, principal. All graduates will be attending exchange seminary programs in Israel and New York for their first year of college.

Pictured, from left to right:

Back row – Ilana Weissmann, college advisor & curriculum development; Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, dean, and Rabbi Aaron Lapin, principal.

Front row – Aviva Shooman, Tzippora Kapilevich, Chana Devorah Peromsik, Minya Schochet, Chani Leibowitz, Zehava Rubin and Rochel Jeremias.







On June 16, Providence Hebrew Day School held its eighth-grade graduation. Back row, left to right – Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, dean, Yisroel Yitzchok Rosenthal (Providence), Natan Shooman (Sharon, Massachusetts).

Front row – Miriam Esther Weiner, principal, Dina Abrahim (Pawtucket), Rochel Schochet (Providence), Chava Saklad (Providence), Avigayil Lapin (Providence), Elka Taitelbaum (Providence), Bina Leah Haldorsen (Pawtucket).



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

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Congregation Beth David presents 'An Evening with Peter Yarrow'

Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul & Mary), singer, songwriter, social and political activist, will appear at Aqua Blue in Narragansett at a benefit concert for Congregation Beth David on July 16.

The performance is open to the public.

His show is remarkable: warm, humorous, contemporary, nostalgic, thoughtful and inspiring. He sings songs and tells stories of where we were, where we are and what we can do now.

Yarrow's talents as a creative artist – both with the legendary trio Peter, Paul & Mary and as a solo performer – are frequently directed at using music to convey a message of humanity and caring.

His gift for songwriting has produced some of the most moving songs from Peter, Paul & Mary, including "Puff, the Magic Dragon," "Day is Done," "Light One Candle" and "The Great Mandala." As a member of the renowned musical trio, Yarrow has earned multiple gold and platinum albums, as well as numerous Grammys.

He has also released four solo albums, hosted three television specials based on "Puff the Magic Dragon," and produced the film "You are What You Eat."

Over the years Yarrow has been involved in many causes – equal rights, peace, the environment, gender equality, homelessness, hospice care, and education. He has received numerous honors, including the Allard K. Lowenstein Award in 1982 and the Tikkun Olam Award from the Miami Jewish Federation in 1995.

Yarrow was also involved in the Guggenheim's "Learning Through Art" program, and Holocaust remembrance and education programs. He is the founder and leader of Operation Respect with its "Don't Laugh At Me" initiative, combatting bullying and violence in schools.

Tickets are $60 and include the performance, dinner and a silent and live auction. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Congregation Beth David at 401-789-3437, or send a check (payable to Congregation Beth David), to Congregation Beth David, P.O. Box 3299, Narragansett, R.I. 02882.

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Amudim Awards Dinner



PHOTO | PHDS

Rabbi Yechezkel Yudkowsky, second from left, received the Providence Hebrew Day School Amudim Award, along with his wife Shiffy, at a dinner on June 8. Yudkowsky is a teacher at the school, rabbi of Congregation Miskon T'filoh and author of recently published young adult book, "When the Ice Melts." Standing with him is (left) Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, dean, Providence Hebrew Day School; Rabbi Yaacov Zimmerman, Judaic Studies teacher; Dr. Marc Diamond, president, PHDS/NEAT.

Pictured at left are Russell Rosen's father, Dr. Richard Rosen, and his brother. Russell Rosen was honored as Alumnus of the Year. His mother, Jani, was a teacher at PHDS for many years. Also recognized at the dinner were Menachem and Libby Leibowitz, whose four daughters attended NEAT over the past 16 years. They received the Parent of the Year award.





IN 1979 (left to right), David LaMarche, Rabbi Kaunfer, Debra LaMarche.



IN 2016 (left to right), Rabbi Megan Goldman, Paige LaMarche, Rabbi Kaunfer. Rear: Ruth Paige Levin, Shoshana Jacob (ASDS/JCDS 1998), Debra LaMarche, David LaMarche

ROOTS IN THE COMMUNITY – Thirty-seven years ago, one of Rabbi Alvin Kaunfer's first marriages at Temple Emanu-El was that of Debra Levin (daughter of Buddy Levin and Ruth Paige Levin) and David LaMarche.

On March 20, 2016, the LaMarches were again blessed when Kaunfer married their daughter Paige (ASDS/JCDS '98) to Rabbi Megan Goldman at the 19th Century Women's Club in Oak Park, Illinois. Megan is the daughter of Dr. Morris Goldman and Dr. Hilarie Lieb of Oak Park, Illinois. The couple will be combining their last name to GoldMarche.

This summer, Megan and Paige will be moving from Manhattan to Lincoln Park, Illinois. Paige is the development coordinator at Temple Israel of the City of New York and has accepted the position of assistant director at the University of Chicago Newberger Hillel. Megan currently works as the senior Jewish educator at Columbia/Barnard Hillel and will become the Rabbi of Base Hillel, a joint venture of Hillel's Office of Innovation and JUF Metro Chicago Hillel. The couple will be committed to pluralism and welcoming students to their home for hospitality, learning and service.

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WE ARE READ



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY – Ethan and Lori Adler spent a few days in Iceland, celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary. Here, they are on a whale watching boat in Akureyri. They report that they had a terrific time!

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