the JEWISH VOICE

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PETS
PURIM



PHOTO | REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE NEWPORT DAILY NEWS

Rabbi Marc Jagolinzer stands near the source of the damage.

Broken pipe floods Temple Shalom

BY FRAN OSTENDORF
fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org

The weekend of Feb. 13-14 was unusual during what has been a particularly warm winter. Temperatures dipped below zero. Homeowners were warned to beware of frozen pipes.

Rabbi Marc Jagolinzer of Temple Shalom, in Middletown, said he worried a little about the synagogue building because there had been "issues" with the heating system. "When I entered the building," he said in an email to The Voice, "I was pleased to feel the warmth of the heat in each of the rooms."

FLOOD | 12



Scott Pray



Mehdi Khosrovani



Lynne Heinzmann

Experienced 'team' guiding JCC renovations

BY FRAN OSTENDORF
fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org

When the renovations to the Jewish Alliance's Dwares JCC are complete, the building will have a much more cohesive feel, so it's not surprising that the architects and general contractors are working as a team.

Scott Pray is president of D.F. Pray General Contractors, in Seekonk, Massachusetts, which is in charge of the building renovations that start March 7. This is the two-phase plan that includes the new Bornstein front entrance, upstairs Salmanson lobby, back entrance and downstairs lobby, making the building accessible to all with ramps and an elevator.

Mehdi Khosrovani is the president of n|e|m|d architects Inc., of Providence. No, that's not a copy-editing error: The firm's name is all lowercase. Khosrovani's firm conducted a master study of the Dwares Jewish Community Center and formulated the master plan that's driven construction throughout the renovation.

The two companies have extensive experience working on projects, large and small, both inside and outside of Rhode Island. Often, they work together on what's called design/build projects. In interviews and at a Jewish Alliance town hall meeting several weeks ago, both company presidents and their representatives

RENOVATIONS | 6



The Israeli startup Paratrek created an augmented wheelchair that allows people with paraplegia to go on hikes.

Meet 5 Israeli companies driving disability tech

BY BEN SALES

TEL AVIV (JTA) – After a missile strike during the 1973 Yom Kippur War left Omer Zur's father paralyzed from the chest down, his dad vowed to continue life as normal. But there was one Israeli pastime he couldn't enjoy: hiking.

"He'd say, 'I'll go in the car and meet you on the other side,'" said Zur, a certified Israeli tour guide. "I said, 'Why can't he do this with us?'"

In 2008, Zur decided that he and his wheelchair-user father would complete a 300-mile trek in southern Turkey. With the help of dozens of friends who joined them on segments of the hike, Zur and his father were able to complete the trail, sleep in tents and cook meals over an open fire.

The hike sparked Paratrek, a startup Zur founded in 2014 that aims to make hiking accessible to people with paraplegia by outfitting wheelchairs with accessories that enable them to

DISABILITY | 25



INSIDE

Business 25-27
Calendar 11
Classified 34
Community 2-3, 5-6, 10-12, 16, 23-24, 34
D'Var Torah 7
Food 13
Health & Wellness 4
Obituaries 28-29
Opinion 8-9
Pets 17-22
Purim 14-16
Seniors 30-31
Simchas | We Are Read 32-33

THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE

"Kids will always find something to reach for if they know their school will support them."

Rabbi teaches how to be a hero

BY DENISE J. RUBIN

On Feb. 18, the Kollel, and the Providence community, welcomed Rabbi Mordechai Becher to the Dwares Jewish Community Center for an evening of discourse on "Heroes and Heroism in Jewish History."

Rabbi Becher is a much-sought-after international speaker and Torah scholar from Australia, who currently resides in New Jersey. He leads educational tours all over the world and is currently lecturing at Yeshiva University, where he is pursuing a doctorate in Jewish history.

Anschel Strauss, a longtime resident of Providence's East Side, an archaeologist and amateur ornithologist, introduced Becher. Strauss has a tremendous passion for the study of Jewish texts, and has accomplished some amazing goals despite having very little formal Jewish education. Rabbi Raphie Schochet, the director of the Kollel for Rhode Island, started off the evening with an introduction of both guests.

Highlights of Becher's lecture included the concept of the Torah being our " portable homeland." Wherever we live, as long as we study Torah, "we are home," Becher said.

The rabbi covered four main principles in his address. First, that it is ultimately everyone's job to "be a hero" (*giboric* – heroism). He defined "hero" as someone who overcomes his *yetzer hara*, or evil inclinations. Second, to be wealthy is to be happy with one's portion. Third, a person who is honored is one who honors others for his own accomplishments. Fourth, to be wise means to learn from everyone when an opportunity presents itself.



PHOTO | DENISE RUBIN

Rabbi Raphie Schochet, Rabbi Mordechai Becher and Anschel Strauss.

A funny anecdote shared by the rabbi told of a child coming home from school and his father asking what he had learned. The boy replied, "We learned that Rashi lived during recess!" The father said, "What does that mean?" The little boy replied, "The teacher told us Rashi lived between 10:40 and 11:05!"

DENISE RUBIN lives in Narragansett, is a speech language pathologist, owner/teacher at Yoga Blossoms, studies Torah with Rabbi Schochet, and is a wannabe photojournalist.

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

URI Hillel welcomes all students for multicultural Shabbat

BY NAAMA MALOMET

I stood by the door of the University of Rhode Island Hillel to welcome people from all cultures, religious backgrounds and denominations into our building, in fulfillment of the time-honored Jewish tradition of *hakhnasat orchim*, welcoming guests. The occasion was Hillel's fifth annual Avi Schaefer Multicultural/ Multifaith Shabbat, an event that brings students of different backgrounds together for an evening of dining, discussion and dancing.

Avi Schaefer was a Brown University student whose life was cut short by a drunk driver in 2010. While at Brown, Schaefer distinguished himself as a student and a trusted voice for Israel and for peace. In his memory, his family established a fund to support projects, such as programs like this that foster interfaith understanding and cross-cultural encounters on college campuses.

As guests flowed through our doors on Feb. 12, they quickly felt at home. We sat down at tables with people we didn't know and who, unbelievably, would soon turn into our friends.

Before our meal, leaders from three of the religions represented spoke about values each faith shares. Jessica Lowenthal, Hillel's rabbinic intern, spoke about how Abraham and Sarah rushed to welcome guests to their tent, which was open on four sides.

URI's Muslim chaplain, Qutaiba Albluwi, spoke about a day of rest and welcoming guests in the Islamic tradition. It was interesting to hear how Islam requires you to rest and considers it an obligation, and also treats the concept of welcoming guests as a statute, similar to the Jewish concept of mitzvot.

URI's Lutheran chaplain, the Rev. Mary Hansen Joyce, led us in a prayer prior to the meal that was almost a literal translation of the prayer I was about to say. And then, representing Judaism, I led the Kiddush and Motzi, the prayers over the wine and the bread.

After the prayers, a multicourse meal was served with dishes representing many of the cultures present. Students of different ethnicities had worked in Hillel's kitchen all afternoon preparing the meal. We started off with matzah ball soup, which was followed by Indian, Persian, Middle Eastern and Dominican specialties.

My table had a great mixture of students: an African-American from the student group Uhuru SASA, a URI staffer of Christian faith, a Muslim, a Baptist, a Latina Christian, and one person who did not identify with any religion. At other tables in the packed social hall sat students from India, Iran, Central America, Tibet, the United States and other nations around the world.

As we ate, I led our table in conversation that quickly strayed from the preset questions that had been furnished. We talked about what we loved about our religions, our favorite holidays and our favorite cultural foods. I shared with them why I love Hillel, to which they all responded by saying that they wished they had a Hillel, too. I told them that they were all welcome here!

As the meal concluded with a sweet baklava dessert, we were ushered into the front room to watch a performance by the multicultural student dance group eXposure.

As the crowd trickled out, it was wonderful to hear so many students comment on what a unique and wonderful evening this had been. It was a special Shabbat experience for all who were present and it truly honored the legacy of Avi Schaefer.

NAAMA MALOMET is a second-year student at the University of Rhode Island. She is the Shabbat and holidays co-chair on the URI Hillel Student Board.



Jacob Kaufman, Sani Motamedi, Maryam Marzban, Jessica Fischer and Michael Bonilla prepare a Persian eggplant dish and Israeli salad for the Avi Schaefer dinner at URI Hillel.



PHOTOS | URI HILLEL

Members of the URI student dance group eXposure entertained after dinner at URI Hillel's Avi Schaefer Shabbat dinner.

The Aaron and Rita Slom Scholarship Fund for Freedom and Diversity

The Slom Scholarship Fund provides up to two college scholarships for high school seniors. Students must submit an interpretive work focusing on the George Washington letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, in context with the present time.

Application materials are available at tourosynagogue.org/history-learning/tsf-intro-menu/slom-scholarship. Only complete applications will be considered.

Questions regarding the scholarship program can be directed to: ritaslom@aol.com or by contacting the Touro Synagogue Foundation office at 401-847-4794, ext. 207.

Applications and interpretive works must be received by April 27, 2016.



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My Fitness Journey: Beginning the reasonable routine

Part two of a series

In taking this fitness journey, I thought it best to keep a diary at the end of each day. This, and subsequent articles, will utilize that format to chronicle my daily activities, experiences, thoughts, conclusions and evaluations. I hope you enjoy reading my summaries and commentaries as much as I have enjoyed writing them.



KARA MARZIALI

Day 1

Today I met with my personal trainer Eddie Fleury. He weighed me, took some measurements and we mapped out a manageable fitness program. My criteria were that it had to be gentle and not condemning, fun and not frustrating. By the same token, I wanted to learn something new and push beyond my comfort zone. I did not want to know my weight or measurements because I don't want any set of numbers to quantify my self-worth, determine my level of emotional wellness or gauge my sense of success on the journey. To me it simply has to be more than the numbers. (Maybe in a few weeks I'll change my mind. But as of today, I am content in not knowing.)

For the past 18 months, at least three days a week, I have enjoyed the moderate pace and measured rhythm of walking on the treadmill. It has become a comfortable routine for me – a time to pray, collect my thoughts, read, watch the news or chat with other fitness members.

Together Eddie and I determined that I would continue getting on the treadmill each morning, as was my custom, and he encouraged me to add some "core" training. I'm sure you've previously heard this jargon, but do you fully understand what it is? Your core is your center. Suffice it to say, it's that part of your body that encompasses the abdominal wall, pelvis, lower back and diaphragm. It's your mid-section – the area that is often prone to love handles and beer bellies.

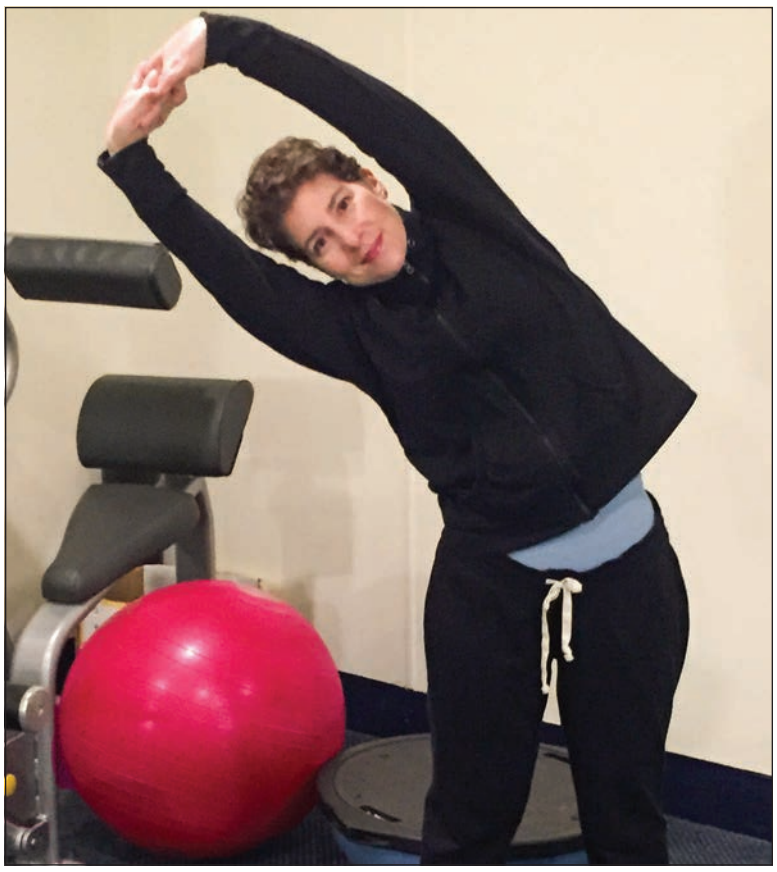


PHOTO | RACHEL KOCH

The Standing Side Stretch is an easy exercise that bends and lengthens your side body.

Strengthening the muscles in your core helps maintain and improve balance and stability, which help in our everyday, tasks. The muscles in our core are used in bending, reaching and twisting. Just think about how you hoist your pocketbook over your shoulder, pick up a toy from the floor, stoop to put on your sock or fasten your seat belt. The best part is many core exercises don't require specialized equipment. I can do most of the exercises on my own at home as well as at the Fitness Center.

Day 3

I didn't feel like working out this morning. It's the weekend, for goodness sake! I procrastinated by surfing the Web. Ironically, I found myself at the BodySoul website. Under "About Us," Lisa claims, "My mission is to help you awaken what is already within you!"

I thought: Okay, but there is a three-toed sloth somewhere inside me, and she wants to go back to sleep!

Day 6

Feeling excited about moving my body, I started stretching as soon as I got out of bed, and then I heard something creak. Luckily for me, it was only a loose floorboard and not my knees!

Day 7

I got on the treadmill for 20 minutes this morning before doing my core training. One of my favorite exercises is the Standing Side Stretch because the gentle bend opens the side of the body, especially the ribs, and it feels soooo good. These muscles can get short and tight during the day, especially when I spend most of my working hours hunched over a computer keyboard. The best part of this exercise is that I can do it right at my desk. I've gotten in the habit of also doing this stretch just before I break for lunch. I learned that side bends stretch the abdominal muscles and gastrointestinal organs, which aids and regulates digestion, elimination and metabolism.



PHOTO | ADRIEN MERCURE

I'm not necessarily the "outdoorsy" type, however, an invigorating walk around Meshanticut Lake in Cranston felt refreshing and healthy!

Day 8

One of the exercises Eddie suggested feels uncomfortable. When I do a plank (an exercise that is held in a push-up-like position, with the body's weight on forearms and toes), I feel a lot of pressure on my back and abdomen. I will talk to Eddie about this when I next meet with him because I don't think it should hurt, and I'm sure he can modify it for me.

Day 12

The Dwares JCC was closed due to a winter storm, thus I could not work out at the Fitness Center today. The all-or-nothing voice in my head was quick to tell me that my journey, thus far, has been a bust – that if I can't work out exactly as Eddie has prescribed, it isn't any good. That I have failed.

The truth is, any exercise is good exercise, so I came up with Plan B. At 7 a.m., the snow had not begun to fall, so I convinced my husband to join me in a jaunt around Meshanticut Lake. The brisk 2.5-mile walk was a fun and suitable form of exercise. I got the benefits of walking, enjoyed quality time with my better half and celebrated the snow day with an unexpected activity. Not to mention, later in the day, I had a generous amount of snow to shovel!

Whether or not I lose inches off my waist, I feel that this exercise journey will reprogram the negative thoughts I have about measuring up. Who knows…maybe I'll gain personal acceptance and lose weight.

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

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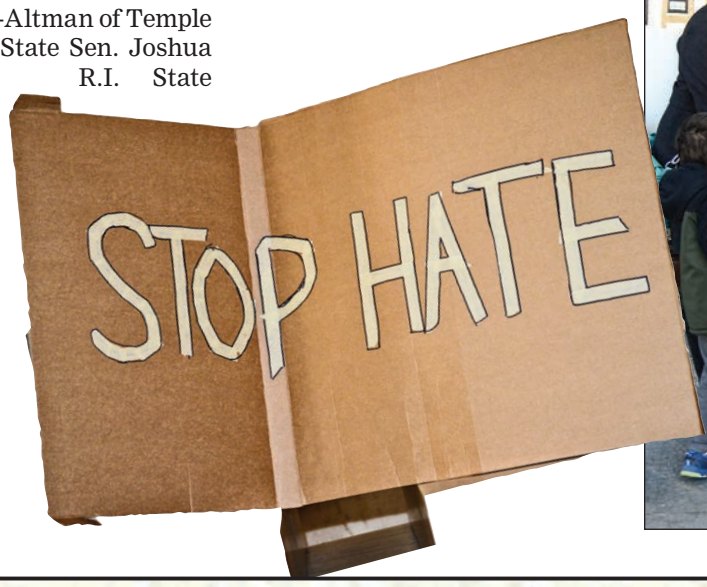
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Immigration rallies at the R.I. Statehouse

A pair of rallies on the Syrian refugee issue was held Feb. 22 at the Rhode Island State House. More than 200 people attended one gathering advocating against welcoming Syrian refugees into the state and another in support of the refugees.

Those attending made it difficult for Charles Jacobs, executive director of Americans for Peace and Tolerance to speak at the first gathering against allowing refugees from Syria into Rhode Island. Peter Hoekstra, former Michigan representative and others also tried to speak but were drowned out by the chanting. At a later, rally in support of welcoming the refugees included Rev. Dr. Donald Anderson of R.I. State Council of Churches as well as Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman of Temple Beth-El, R.I. State Sen. Joshua Miller and R.I. State Rep. Aaron Regunberg.









PHOTOS | FRAN OSTENDORF

Scenes at the Rhode Island State House on Feb. 22.

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FROM PAGE 1

RENOVATIONS

emphasized they share a synergy that will make the project run smoothly.

"Design/build is a team approach," said Pray. "We've all worked together. Questions are handled quickly. There's no opposing teams."

Pray says creating a master plan for the building was a smart move on the part of the Alliance – "forward thinking" is how he puts it. He says that way, anything that might be done to the building over time is taken into consideration.

"This is a modest renovation," Khosrovani says. "We are keeping the bones of the building as much as possible."

He emphasized that he and the firm have taken a "less is more" approach to the renovation designs. As he describes it, the building will look "modern, but modest" at completion.

The goal is to put a sense of community back into the Jewish Community Center – to make it an inclusive, welcoming space, accessible to all, and to create better flow, while keeping security in mind.

The original building reflects the design standards of a structure built in 1971. Concrete that now appears as a barrier was originally meant to evoke a sheltering feel. At that time, "the standard was a sheltering space," said Lynne Heinzmann, project manager for n|e|m|d. "Now, the standard is a welcoming space."

So the front entrance will be opened up with an upstairs and downstairs lobby. At completion, there will be a front entrance and a back entrance, instead of the five entrances now in use.

"The goal is to put a sense of community back into the Jewish Community Center – to make it an inclusive, welcoming space."

From the new front desk, you'll be able to see who is coming and going. And better flow will help people engage with each other and with activities going on in the building.

Khosrovani and Heinzmann say they are using the same palette and the same materials throughout the building to give it a more cohesive feel. They have been involved with planning and renovations for the David C. Isenberg Family Early Childhood Center, the Health Clubs and Fitness Center, all of which are well underway. They continue to be involved with the upcoming renovations to the Victor and Gussie Baxt Social Hall and the Bornstein Holocaust Education Center.



Andy Gamache

So how many workers can you expect to see in the building? Pray and Andy Gamache, project manager for D.F. Pray, both said that's hard to pin down. Some days, only a few and some days as many as 30, depending on the work at hand.

The project is expected to take approximately nine months. The front of the building will be under construction until August; the rear will follow with a mid-November finish as the target.

"It's nice to be part of a well-thought-out process," said Pray.

FRAN OSTENDORF is the editor of The Jewish Voice.

Safety procedures in place for asbestos abatement at JCC

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

To those of us who don't sport a hard hat daily, just hearing the word "asbestos" can send our heart rates up a bit.

Andy Gamache, of D.F. Pray General Contractors, of Seekonk, Massachusetts, and John Hem, of Acme Abatement Contractors, of Seekonk, are both part of the team working on the renovation at the Dwares Jewish Community Center, in Providence. They agreed to share some of the asbestos-abatement process to give peace of mind to those who use the JCC.

On the first floor of the building, says Gamache, asbestos is primarily located in the floor adhesive. On the second floor, it is in the old insulation fibers. The areas containing asbestos will be sealed off, airtight, and non-authorized personnel will not be allowed in.

In the working area, a vacuum-like contraption called a negative air machine will suck the air in through a filter every two hours. Hem, who says he receives questions about asbestos all the time, explained that this is a regulation that his team is required to follow.

He said there are "clean" and "dirty" rooms where workers are required to rinse off before exiting the work area, and air pressure is monitored to ensure clean air outside the work area. The moment the measuring instrument, called a manometer, starts beeping, the team is no longer permitted to continue their work.

At the end of all this, the asbestos-containing material is disposed of in a pre-approved facility – "we obviously can't just dump it in a landfill," says Hem – and a report is submitted to the state.

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

What's happening at the Dwares JCC?

Starting March 7, the front entrance to the Jewish Alliance's Dwares JCC will be closed. Members, guests and staff can enter through the Fitness entrance in the rear. ECC families and staff will continue to use the entrance off the back parking lot. The Sessions Street entrance will be available for those who need access to the Alliance offices.

Six or seven parking spaces along Elmgrove Avenue, adjacent to the front entrance, will be fenced off. Temporary sidewalks will be created. As the project progresses, information will be available at jewishallianceri.org

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RABBI RICHARD PERLMAN

This week's Torah *parashah, Vayakhel*, Exodus 35:1–38:20, begins with Moses addressing the Israelites. Nu? That is not unusual as the words from God directing Moshe to "tell the Children of Israel" this, and that, come quite frequently. The words this week however, are directing the Children of Israel with the "privilege" of building the *mishkan* (Tabernacle). Many of the same instructions from previous *parshiot* regarding the specifics of the *mishkan* construction are repeated in this week's reading just to be sure we understand this important undertaking.

A commentary in the Stone *Humash*, suggests that the repetition of the instructions demonstrates the great significance of the *mishkan* as a setting for God's essence or presence among the Israelites. Once again, Moses requested that "everyone whose heart motivates him" donate the materials required for the building of the *mishkan*. And then, do you know what happened? Some folks gave just what they could afford, and others donated even more and more and even more.

Another commentary suggests that the women of Israel were the primary donors of the gold that was used to build the *mishkan*, since they were more likely than the men to wear the bracelets, nose rings, and other types of bodily ornaments referred to in the *parashah*. (Chapter 35 verse 22).

Perhaps the most interesting turn of events comes in Chapter 36, when the artisans who were actually building the Tabernacle informed Moses that there was an excess of donated supplies. As a result, Moses spoke yet again and directed a halt to all further contributions.

According to biblical commentator Ramban (Rabbi Moshe ben Nahman), Moses and the artisans are to be commended for their honesty since they could have continued to collect donations and pocket the excess.

Can you imagine a fundraising campaign conducted with the utmost honesty by all involved; the givers and the recipients and donations in such a surplus that Moses had to put the brakes on further contributions? Come on! In this day and age, how many shuls can afford to turn away valuable donations? Name one – I am looking forward to hearing that success story in today's world.

In this context, I recently researched the topic of "synagogue fundraising" and here are some of my findings: There was an article on Forward.com that compares the theoretical differences between synagogue and church fundraising. The article starts out with the premise that synagogues, unlike churches, rarely bring the mention of God into fundraising appeals. In the article, Pastor Megan Torgerson said that her church emphasizes religious obligation in its fundraising efforts. She encourages her parishioners to consider money as something that already belongs to God; not to think of it as personal property. She views money as a temporary "gift" that should be returned to God.

> **"... a synagogue is in the business of serving the religious needs of its members. We should never lose sight of that."**

In contrast, Josh Nathan-Kazis, who authored the article, implied that many synagogues remind congregants how the synagogue "community" is there for them through thick and thin, and that that should be the reason to donate money. Nathan-Kazis specifically referenced the typical synagogue Yom Kippur and Kol Nidrei appeals in support of his position.

According to Professor Jack Wertheimer of the Jewish Theological Seminary, the rhetoric surrounding giving within the Conservative and Reform movements is generally not religiously charged. Wertheimer said that, while churches use biblical language like tithing and offerings, synagogues speak in terms of various categories that are business oriented. This is not necessarily a bad thing.

Whether taking the religious approach, the business approach or a combination of both fundraising models, synagogues, and therefore Judaism itself, cannot survive without fundraising. In addition to the costs of paying clergy, teachers and other staff, there is also rent/mortgage, utilities, insurance and general maintenance, some of which were not relevant in the days of the *mishkan*. The Children of Israel had only to give for the building. They gave from the heart until they were told to stop.

That is not the end of the story, however. The Children of Israel were told to stop bringing items to build the *mishkan*, but they continued to maintain the *mishkan* by bringing their sacrificial offerings. That kind of giving continued until the two Temples were destroyed, a full one-third of our time as Jews. After that, the sacrifices were replaced by *tefilah* and *tzedakah*, prayer and contribution.

Yes, maintaining a synagogue in today's world requires us to run it like a business. There are revenues, expenses and budgets. The reality is, a synagogue is in the business of serving the religious needs of its members. We should never lose sight of that. When we give, let us remember that we are giving to God's house, a house we Jews need to survive as a people. Knowing this is why giving to God should not be viewed as a burden, it should feel good. Like our ancestors, if we give from our hearts, perhaps pulpit rabbis all over will stand up and say, "Nu, enough already! Stop giving!" Imagine that! May we all be blessed with health, happiness and a whole lot of plenty.

RICHARD PERLMAN is rabbi of the West Bay Community Jewish Center.

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Candle Lighting Times

Greater Rhode Island

March 4	5:20
March 11	5:28
March 18	6:36
March 25	6:44

Daylight saving time resumes March 13



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Reflections on a 'big' birthday



EDITOR

FRAN OSTENDORF

I recently celebrated a milestone birthday. Those who know me personally know which one it is. For those of you who don't, you'll just have to guess as I'm not revealing which milestone I've achieved.

Suffice it to say, that this birthday has had more of an impact than most others. Before the big day, I waffled between wanting to bury my head in the sand and shouting from the hilltops. My family wouldn't let me do the former. Or the latter, which really isn't in my character anyway. But they gathered from near and far last weekend, and they stayed for several days. It was fun; I am lucky they are able to swoop in and remind me of the network that exists.

This has really made me think of my grandmother who lived to see 104. She always said that every birthday was worth celebrating and that is exactly what she did. From 90 onward, she threw a yearly family party for herself. She planned the menu, ordered the cake and was quite upset if everything didn't go as she planned it. We have fond memories of these gatherings that pulled family from across the country to the town where our family has its roots.

For many of our forefathers and mothers, the birthday I'm staring at was nothing. Abraham was 175. Sarah gave birth to Isaac at 90 and lived to 127. Though there are questions about her age, Rebekah may have been 155 when she died. What was the meaning of their advanced years? Was this really a story; meant to teach a lesson? Life was hard in Biblical times. And the medical science as we know it today was nonexistent. Perhaps people just thought about aging differently.

Despite advanced medical science, we have to deal with pollution, chemicals and all the associated toxins that can contribute to illness and even aging. Still, a fairly common birthday greeting is "May you live to be 120," which happens to be the age at which Moses died. I heard that wish a few times recently.

Would I like to live that long? That's a difficult question to answer. With sound mind and body, perhaps. I would certainly see much change in the world and have many opportunities to contribute to that change and more time to do some good.

Those sometimes scary but often insightful milestone birthdays give you a chance to think about the big picture things, especially when you are surrounded by loving family members.

I'll try to take from it that I'm lucky to have such a network of support, and lucky just to have made each milestone. Like all new beginnings, it was also an opportunity to take stock and gain perspective on both the past and future.

So my advice to you is to celebrate even those birthdays you dread and take from them the beauty and comforts that they bring. It's enough to help you forget you are aging!

A cartoon that isn't funny



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

One evening last January an unsolicited and unwanted cartoon appeared in my inbox: At the center stands a caricature of a fierce-looking bearded suicide bomber, whose explosive belt is labeled MULTI-CULTURALISM. Six fawning bystanders, three on each side of him, are engaged in trying to explain away the imminent menace. The man at the far left asks, "What if he's an Islamist?"

Three responses come in rapid succession: "So what? Who are we to judge?" "It's arrogant to think our culture is superior, isn't it?" "And it's bigoted to criticize his religion, isn't it?"

At the far right a father tells his child, "Don't stare, son. You might offend him."

The cartoon's caption, immediately beneath the word MULTI-CULTURALISM on the suicide vest, reads THE REAL SUICIDE BOMB.

My first reaction to the cartoon was anger. The email came from StopIranNow-RI, which identifies itself as "an interfaith grassroots organization dedicated to the preservation of Western values and America's alliance with Israel." Western values? It seems to me that tolerance is an essential Western value; so too is the moral imperative to judge individuals on the basis of their actions rather than to pre-judge them on the basis of some imputed collective identity. Western values demand that we treat every man and woman as a whole person with a unique past, present and future, that we treat every man and woman as a name and not a number.

In his op-ed piece, "Holocaust a disingenuous comparison," in the Providence Journal on Jan. 27, Howard Brown, coordinator of StopIranNow-RI, writes that "prudence is necessary in bringing into our society a largely anti-Semitic, anti-Christian, misogynistic, homophobic population that favors *sharia* law to American law." Is labeling Syrian refugees, who are for the most part helpless and desperate, "anti-Semitic, anti-Christian, misogynistic, homophobic" consistent with the Western values StopIranNow-RI claims to support?

By what standard of truth does Brown justify such an unproven and unprovable generality? Brown identifies himself as "a concerned, Torah-aware member of the Rhode Island Jewish community." I, too, identify that way. But I take exception to his wholesale condemnation of Syrian refugees, and to the outrageous cartoon his organization saw fit to send to my inbox.

Over the weeks my anger at the cartoon and the so-called values for which it stands has morphed into profound frustration and sadness. Shortly after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, I wrote in my column for the Oct. 3 issue of the Barrington Times: "Since these terrifying events of Tuesday morning, September 11, we are no longer Democrats and Republicans, New Englanders and Southerners and Westerners. We are now living in a time when that which divides us is not nearly so significant as that which brings us together."

How wrong I was! How utterly naïve! In the decade and a half since I penned those words, the divisions between Democrats and Republicans, the differences among New Englanders, Southerners and Westerners have hardened, widened, deepened – as have the conflicting stances within our own Rhode Island Jewish community

In the eerily prophetic words of William Butler Yeats' "The Second Coming," a poem written in 1919: "Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;/...Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,/...The best lack all conviction, while the worst/Are full of passionate intensity."

Nevertheless, I refuse to succumb to what David Brooks, in his Feb. 9 column in The New York Times, called "the pornography of pessimism." Like Brooks, I feel that we Americans "have problems, but they are less serious than those faced by just about any other nation on earth."

And like Brooks, I sense that "[p]eople are motivated to make wise choices more by hope and opportunity than by fear, cynicism, hatred and despair."

It seems to me that the cartoon that landed in my inbox is precisely an expression of that toxic mixture of "fear, cynicism, hatred and despair."

In my post 9/11 column in the Barrington Times, I also wrote: "If out of fear and ignorance we demonize all who appear different from us, then the terrorists have already defeated us." For me, then, multi-culturalism is not, as the cartoon insists, "the real suicide bomb." On the contrary, multi-culturalism is a force that enables America to continue to serve as a beacon of hope and opportunity to the tired, the poor, the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

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

Police remove haredi protesters from women's service at Western Wall

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Police removed haredi Orthodox protesters who disturbed a women's prayer service at the Western Wall.

The Original Women of the Wall group held morning services on Feb. 29 using a small Torah scroll they smuggled in. The more than 20 women were wearing prayer shawls, or tallit, and phylacteries, or tefillin.

According to a statement issued by the group, a breakaway from the Women of the Wall, the prayers were "brutally disturbed" by several haredi Orthodox men and women.

"Over 20 women participated in this morning's prayer as the group and other worshipers prayed uneventfully at the Kotel until a number of haredi women began screaming and attempting to push into the group, assaulting members of the group by violent shoving and grabbing arms," the statement said. "Shouting and cursing, the attackers did not relent their assault until police arrived to protect the women's prayer group."

After removing the protesters, police remained in the area until the prayer service ended.

The Original Women of the Wall rejects the recent compromise for an egalitarian prayer plaza, and the group has said it will not leave the women's section of the Western Wall once it is ready. It has begun to have services at the Western Wall on days other than Rosh Chodesh, as the Women of the Wall traditionally has done for more than 25 years.

A 2013 Supreme Court ruling acknowledged the women's right to pray at the Western Wall according to their beliefs, claiming it does not violate what has come to be known as "local custom." Regulations at the site set by the office have allowed women to wear prayer shawls and kippahs, but prevented them from using a Torah scroll in their section.

OUR MISSION

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

COLUMNS | LETTERS POLICY

The Jewish Voice publishes thoughtful and informative contributors' columns (op-eds of 500 – 800 words) and letters to the editor (300 words, maximum) on issues of interest to our Jewish community. At our discretion, we may edit pieces for publication or refuse publication. Letters and columns, whether from our regular contributors or from guest columnists, represent the views of the authors; they do not represent the views of The Jewish Voice or the Alliance.

Send letters and op-eds to: The Jewish Voice, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906 or editor@jewishallianceri.org. Include name, city of residence and a contact phone number or email (not for publication).

Deli night was a wonderful throwback for those of us of 'a certain age'

BY NOEL RUBINTON

Trips on the Jewish Wayback Machine are wonderful, and the recent "A Night at the Deli" at the Dwares JCC was magnificent.

Ah, the sight of an old-fashioned slicing machine and the deli man in his whites, the smell of spicy pastrami, and the texture of the vat of Dr. Brown soda cans.

And yet.

You could probably count on one hand the people under 40 there. No kids. And Rhode Island, of course, hasn't had a kosher deli for many years and prospects for a new one are about as likely as the chance of finding a bottle of schmaltz at Whole Foods.

Nostalgia has its place. It's comfortable and cozy to enjoy it sometimes and be reminded of the good old days. There's even now a place, if sometimes a snarky one, for nostalgia on social media sites like Facebook and Instagram: "Throwback Thursday." Old photos become a way to reveal part of one's self and poke some fun.

To grow many kinds of support, nostalgia's role is large. Looking back to past glories is common in religion – what would the Torah be without the references to the past? In far less spiritual areas, nostalgia is often used to "make the sale." In politics, candidates hark back to olden days. Nostalgia is huge in marketing and advertising – how else to explain those ubiquitous Budweiser Clydesdales?

And yet.

The limits of nostalgia are also real, especially when it comes to wooing new generations. Young people who don't remember or understand cultural history can be turned off or uninterested.

Jewish food is no different. Tastes and traditions have changed greatly in the last generations. Closely related are the effects of assimilation and intermarriage, which have weakened the bonds of traditional Jewish food. The result, as the delightful film at the JCC, "Deli Man," pointed out: the thousands of Jewish delis in the United State less than a century ago have dwindled to fewer than 200 nationally.

This situation makes me think of two wise adages: "You are what you eat" and "meet people where they are."

In Judaism, as in other religions, food has long been an integral part of practice and group identification. The Torah makes major pronouncements on food, such as the laws of kashrut and prohibition of leavened bread during Passover. Much tradition has arisen through time around food, and food has an enormous place in rituals. There are many people whose closest connection to Judaism comes through food, not liturgy. It's been seen many times over that if you interest someone in Jewish food, there's a good chance that more Jewish involvement could follow.

Which brings us to "meeting people where they are."

It seems highly unlikely that a generation of Jews not raised on traditional deli foods will spontaneously find intense taste buds for them. You have to creatively coax someone to try something new. It could be by cooking more of these recipes at home, such as stuffed cabbage, and serving them without guilt ("your grandfather loved this, why not you?"). For those for whom it fits with their practice, a festive meal at a non-kosher Jewish style deli can be fun and, yes, a teaching experience. An outing to the real thing – a kosher deli – whether around Boston or elsewhere, can be a place for special celebration.

Saving all the enthusiasm for "the real thing" – kosher deli – is not realistic. There's not enough of it accessible. And that approach isn't useful, as it communicates that it's all or nothing, rather than a continuum.

There are, fortunately, creative examples here of ways to draw in younger Jews by meeting them, literally, in a non-traditional place. "D'var in the Bar" is a successful program of (401)j, a project of three Providence synagogues and the Jewish Alliance to encourage Jews in their early 20s to mid-40s outside of synagogue walls. It is a series of conversations about Torah topics in, well, bars. The idea, which is just one of many programming options fashioned by (401)j, is to get people connected to the subject matter and wanting to know more, not getting hung up on whether it's on a Saturday morning or in a synagogue. Maybe it will encourage them to go to a synagogue, maybe not, but at least it perpetuates Torah and Jewish values.

Sadly for fans, Jewish kosher delis are not on their way back into fashion, and the night at the JCC was more like an oasis in the desert. But we can find a way for the great tradition to live on for people of many ages, and the smell of that chicken soup and the pungent spiciness of that pastrami can still go a long way.

NOEL RUBINTON is a consultant and writer based in Providence.

Primary debates leave us wondering: Is it CNN or SNL?

BY MARTY COOPER

Turn on the television during one of the primary debates, no matter the party, and you'll bear witness to a comedy sketch. You may even think you're in the audience of "Saturday Night Live." Alas, you're not – you're watching tomorrow's leaders duke it out right before your eyes. Besides, "Saturday Night Live" is not nearly as amusing.

Folks, we are witnessing a seismic shift in the way our nation's candidates run for office. The primary and election processes, I think we'd all agree, have run amok.

It is now customary to create pointless stories full of inaccuracies that spread like wildfire across social media outlets. It is now acceptable to call people liars without any basis, and it is even standard practice to falsely accuse opponents with ridiculous allegations, attack their family and friends, and spout insults. And let's not forget another new practice – spewing expletives.

In the wonderful world of politics, we have come to expect muckraking and mudslinging. But today's leaders have gone beyond this and entered a new arena that has yet to be named.

This year's political season is not yet in full force, but it is already rolling out as an "anything goes" spoof of anything that will lead to a boost in the polls. And it's nothing personal – it's just how you play the game. It's how you win, too. It's how you take every negative quality possible, transform yourself into the quintessential bully and influence people.

What fine examples of leadership we are setting for our children! It's no wonder bullying at school or in the workplace is common – if our heroes, role models and leaders can do it, it must be okay.

I admit, there was once a time when I, like so many others of my generation, dreamed of being president. That was when being president actually meant and stood for something, representing everything good about our country. There was a time when I admired a candidate for his or her stance on the real issues, his or her vision for our country and the confidence that each of us could single-handedly attain the American Dream. The candidates of my era were true statesmen – Kennedy, Humphrey, even Reagan. But this new crop of politicians does not stand for the ideals and values on which this country was formed; it stands for its own.

I hope the candidates running for the nation's – really, the world's – highest office will soon change their political strategies. Either that or we, as voters, must.

Caveat emptor – let the buyer, or the voter – beware. More like, be wary. Choosing a candidate is like buying a car – you have to do your research thoroughly before making such a big decision.

MARTY COOPER is the Community Relations director for the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

Universities must act to protect free speech on campus

BY EMILY BRISKMAN

CHICAGO (JTA) – The ideals of open dialogue, debate and civil discourse are pillars of university life. Today, these mainstays of higher education are beginning to crumble with fissures developing over issues of race, gender and, most recently, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which now threatens to topple the tower of free speech itself.

On Feb. 18, Bassem Eid, a venerable Palestinian human rights activist, was forced to end his remarks early at the University of Chicago because an anti-Israel protester reportedly threatened him with physical violence. Eid's position in support of normalizing relations with Israel is exactly what made him a target. He is in favor of dialogue. What is so threatening about conversation and ideas that leads Israel's detractors to this menacing behavior?

As efforts to delegitimize Israel proliferate, anti-Israel activists on campus are edging closer to incitement and even violence. Instead of wrestling with divergent ideas, students are grappling with intimidation tactics that provoke raw fear. And universities are not stepping up to ensure that freedom of speech and the powers of persuasion win the day over intimidation and bullying those who do not share a particular point of view.

According to a report by the University of Chicago's Freedom of Expression Committee – a document that has become a national model of excellence, with core principles adopted by Princeton, American, Purdue and other universities – community members are free to criticize and protest, but not if it winds up restricting the rights of others to free expression.

"To this end," the report states, "the University has a solemn responsibility not only to promote a lively and fearless freedom of debate and deliberation, but also to protect that freedom when others attempt to restrict it."

The implications are clear: Higher education is not about comfort. Students should be made uncomfortable — by ideas. For students to become critical thinkers, they first must be able to hear and then engage with ideas that challenge them. They should feel unsettled by hearing divergent points of view, by encountering new ideas on their journey toward an informed worldview.

But there is a difference between being made to feel uncomfortable and being made to feel unsafe. Campus safety should be as sacrosanct as freedom of expression. No student should be made to fear for their personal security because of their beliefs.

No doubt university administrators, faculty and staff face a great challenge. The values of free speech and expression can come in conflict with other key values, such as equality and non-discrimination. Through strong leadership, intellectual honesty and sincere reflection on their own missions, universities can apply their standards in a manner that safeguards both free speech and the student body.

Going forward, universities must create the proper conditions for learning to occur in a non-threatening environment. Campus spaces must be physically safe and secure. Rules and regulations must be clear: If someone attends a campus event for the sole purpose of shutting it down, they must know that they will be removed immediately and the consequences will be grave, no matter their point of view.

Campuses should be a sanctuary for robust debate where mutual respect is sacrosanct. Our campuses must ensure the messengers are kept safe. But it's open season on the messages themselves.

EMILY BRISKMAN is executive director of the Jewish United Fund's Israel Education Center and assistant vice president/campus affairs at JUF.



Students at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island.



Students at the David C.Isenberg Family Early Childhood Center

Providence's Jewish schools offer top-shelf, affordable education

BY HILLARY SCHULMAN
hschulman@jewishallianceri.org

It's springtime, and that means that families all over the state are starting to think about the next school year. Where should you send your child? Did you know that there are two Jewish day schools and one early childhood center right here in Providence? And did you know that all three of these schools receive funding from the Jewish Alliance's Annual Campaign for scholarships?

All three schools – the David C. Isenberg Family Early Childhood Center, the Providence Hebrew Day School, and the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island – provide a first-class education to the next generation of Rhode Island Jews.

The David C. Isenberg Family Early Childhood Center (ECC), a program of the Jewish Alliance, is located at the Dwares JCC. The school's mission is to provide a high-quality and developmentally age-appropriate program comprised of educational and Judaic experiences. In a secure, nurturing and loving atmosphere, it fosters the cognitive, physical, emotional and social growth of young children, both Jewish and non-Jewish. The ECC serves approximately 120 children between the ages of 3 months and 5 years old from 102 families.

Director Jo-Anne DeGiacomo-Petrie says that at the ECC, "Children's success is measured based upon the learning process versus the product. It is respected that each child learns at their own rate and learning preferences."

The ECC staff provides experiences that promote Jewish values, which are also human values, with the hope that exposure to these ideals will create lifelong positive behaviors.

The Providence Hebrew Day School (PHDS) is located nearby the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. Serving the Orthodox Jewish community, PHDS teaches children a love of Torah, Judaism, mitzvot, and Israel; provides them with a program of excellence in Torah studies and general studies and prepares them to compete in a globally competitive society. Serving an average of 55 families, the PHDS also prides itself on helping its graduates gain entry into the finest high schools and universities.

According to Director Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, "Students that attend Jewish day schools are far more likely to find Jewish spouses so, in effect, Jewish education equals Jewish survival." Scheinerman also quotes Rabbi Alexander Schindler, the past chancellor of the Reform movement, saying, "If we don't educate our children as Jews there is precious little that we can expect from them."

The Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island (JCDSRI) is also located near the Jewish Alliance. With Head of School Adam Tilove at the helm, JCDSRI prepares confident, collaborative, critical thinkers for the 21st century. The school employs a progressive curriculum that nurtures each student's innate creativity and curiosity while promoting academic rigor and developing character. JCDSRI is supported by an inclusive community of 52 families and reflects the values and ethics of a vibrant and diverse Jewish community.

JCDSRI sends its graduates to the finest public and independent middle and high schools in the area. In addition, it boasts the integration of *tikkun olam*, or making the world a better place, as a core value.

Tilove says, "Our students use Jewish prayer and the holidays to reflect on the meaning of their lives and explore how they can be better friends, children, brothers, sisters and community members. We use the full range of our traditions and critical thinking skills to devise ways to make the world a better place.

"This belief that Judaism can lend a sense of meaning and purpose to our lives is deeply ingrained in our community."

Each of these schools instills core Jewish and human values as well as offering high-level education. But what if you can't afford to send your child to one of these prestigious schools?

Not to worry – the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's Annual Campaign offers substantial scholarship opportunities for all three schools.

Ten percent of the families at the ECC have received scholarships. Here is how one family expressed gratitude regarding their scholarship to DeGiacomo-Petrie:

"For me, I was so scared knowing that I had two kids at the ECC and could not afford to send the third without financial assistance. I love and trust the ECC. I was fortunate to get assistance for my third child and felt very supported. If I was not able to receive any support, I was going to need to take my other two children out. I did not know where I was going to send them. My son stayed at the ECC because of the support I received."

At PHDS, Alliance allocations assist in financial aid to more than 60 percent of families, with a motto that no Jewish child will be left behind. Scheinerman says he is proud that PHDS has very involved alumni, many of whom attribute their success in life to the education they received at PHDS.

"This past week I met with Mr. Michael Bohnen, who runs the Sheldon Adelson Foundation, and Zamira Korff, a top fundraising specialist for CJP [Combined Jewish Philanthropies]. Both remarked to me that much of who they are today all started years ago at the school," Scheinerman said.

JCDSRI receives a significant allocation from the Alliance, which assists with financial aid for approximately 65 percent of its families. Many families have expressed gratitude for the JCDSRI's impact on them and their children. One family said, "Our son started at JCDSRI this year and we could not be happier. The strong academic foundation he is getting is only the start; more fundamentally, he is learning that school is a place where his instinctive love for learning and curiosity is continued and furthered.

"The school truly focuses on the 'whole child'; emotional intelligence is fostered just as much as are academic skills. Most impressively, core values such as empathy and gratitude are not just paid lip service: instead, they are woven into the smallest, simplest details of the curriculum, and add up to something pretty profound.

"As parents with different religious backgrounds, we feel that our shared values have found in this school a perfect fit."

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

Ongoing

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

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 April 3

Spring Mixed Show. Gallery at Temple Habonim. Encaustics and oils by Nancy Whitcomb; underwater photography by Neil Greenspan; and a mural by Religious School students. Hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment. 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. For information, call 401-245-6536. gallery@templehabonim.org.

Friday | March 4

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

Saturday | March 5

Drash & Dessert: Love your neighbor. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Dwares JCC. The Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island presents an evening of dialogue, learning and community. The Torah's dictate to "love your neighbor as yourself" has inspired Jews and non-Jews for millennia. It remains extremely relevant and, at times, profoundly challenging. Who is a "neighbor," and is anyone excluded from the class? Can we truly love others if we don't love ourselves first? What if "your neighbor" poses a threat? Join the Board of Rabbis for a meaningful evening of learning, study and practice as we build spiritual community together and try to "practice what we preach." Enjoy an assortment of desserts as well as a hot chocolate bar. No cost. 7:30 p.m. Havdalah and Introductory Session | 8 p.m. Five Learning Sessions. For more information, contact Larry Katz at 401-421-4111, ext. 179, or lkatz@jewishallianceri.org.

Sunday | March 6

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

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

Saturday | March 12

"Electricity! Music, Food and a Fun Night Out." 7 p.m. Temple Emanu-El. Amy Olson, Alpha Beats, Oak Hill Band and a buffet. Tickets at the door, $15. Information TeProv.org.

Sunday | March 13

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



DAY AT THE J: Sunday, March 6 — enjoy Disney's "Ratatouille"

Friday | March 18

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

Reform Congregations of R.I. Joint Service. 7:30 p.m. Temple Habonim. Yearly Shabbat celebration of Temple Beth-El, Temple Habonim, Temple Sinai and the Newport Havurah. 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington.

Saturday | March 19

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

Sunday | March 20

West Bay Havurah Book Discussion. 2-3:30 p.m. Tamarisk Assisted Living Community Room, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. "The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics," by Daniel James Brown, is a wonderful 2013 non-fiction best seller, which follows an unlikely band of athletes as they strive to compete in the contested games amidst the turmoil of the times. Alice Goldstein will lead the discussion. Contact her at 401-463-9233 to register for this discussion group, and for more information. Copies of the book are available at RI Public Libraries, as well as purchase via local bookstores and amazon.com.

Tuesday | March 29

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

Thursday | March 31

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

Assi Azar. 7 p.m. Gender and Sexuality Center URI. Co-sponsored by URI Hillel, the Gender and Sexuality Center and Harrington School of Communication and Media. No cost. For information, contact Amy Olson at amyolson@uri.edu or 401-874-2740.

Upcoming | May 3

Lisa Green. 6:30 p.m. Miriam Hospital Women's Association. Green is a lawyer and legal analyst who appears on NBC News and MSNBC. The Miriam Hospital, 164 Summit Ave., Providence. For more information, contact Mary Ferreira, 401-793-2520.

Calendar Submissions

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

APRIL 1 issue, SENIORS, must be received by MARCH 23.

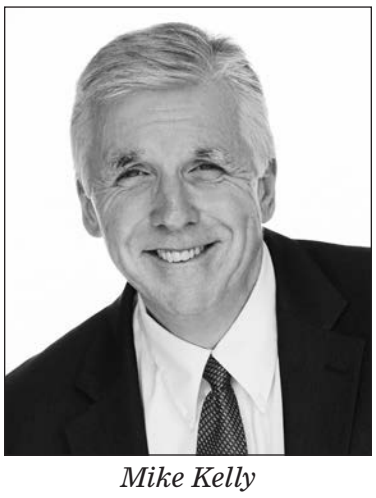
SEND ALL CALENDAR ITEMS TO: editor@jewishallianceri.org with the subject line "CALENDAR." Calendar entries may be edited for content, length and relevance.

Award-winning journalist to speak at JCC

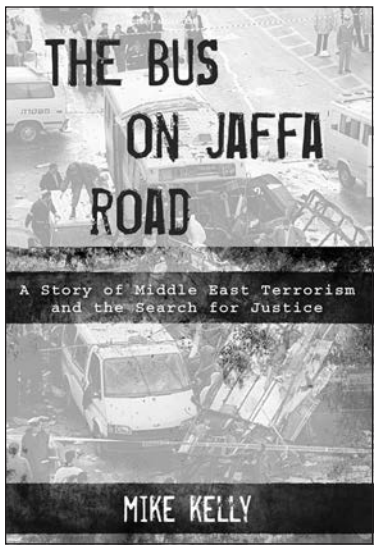
Twenty years ago, after their children were killed in a terrorist bombing, the American families attempted to find out who was responsible. After winning a judgment in an American court, the families encountered an unforeseen antagonist ... their own government.

In his latest book, "The Bus on Jaffa Road," award-winning journalist Mike Kelly tells the story of these families. He will tell this story in person at the Dwares Jewish Community Center, in Providence, on March 6, at 9:45 a.m. There is no cost to attend.

This book has been hailed by all segments of the American Jewish community, and beyond. Thomas H. Kean, former chairman of the 9/11 Commission, wrote, "Two young Americans are murdered on a bus. From that point on, Mike Kelly takes us on a ride through the tortuous minefield of Middle Eastern politics as their families search for justice. The story takes us into the mind of a terrorist and down the corridors of power in Washington. Best of all, it reads like a novel. Read it! You will enjoy it and in the process learn a great deal about our troubled world."



Mike Kelly



Bob Simon, correspondent on CBS' "60 Minutes," wrote, "'The Bus on Jaffa Road' goes deep below the rhetoric on the 'war on terror' and tells the compelling story of what happens to the people who are not killed but whose lives are destroyed by one bomb on one bus."

Books will be available for purchase and for signing. This program is presented by the Jewish Alliance in partnership with the Jewish Book Council. A light breakfast will be served.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or to RSVP, contact Gilor Meshulam,community shaliach (emissary), at gmeshulam@jewishalliancri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 121.



PHOTO | PHDS

PHDS students visit the R.I. State House

As part of studies in their American Government Class students in the 7th and 8th at Providence Hebrew Day School visited the Rhode Island State House. They enjoyed a tour of the State House and were able to see up close how state government operates. Pictured, on the stairs of the State House, are the 8th grade girls with their Hebrew language teacher, Janice Rosenfield, who chaperoned the trip along with Jeffrey Stoloff, the middle school history teacher.



PHOTO | RIJHA FILES

Temple Shalom in Middletown.

FROM PAGE 1

| FLOOD

Unfortunately, what he didn't realize was that, despite the heat, a pipe had frozen.

The heat in the building continued to function and the temperatures outside eventually rose. But the frozen pipe, between the men's and ladies' rooms thawed and burst.

On Thursday, Feb. 18, Jagolinzer entered the building to find his feet sloshing in water. "As I walked from room to room, I found water in the majority of the building," he said. " The rugs were soaked. Never in my wildest dreams did I think a pipe would burst. We've occupied the building since 1978 without a problem."

Within an hour, the water was shut off. But the damage was done.

Jagolinzer told The Voice that the building is not usable until it is dried out and repaired. Rugs and tile have been removed. Floors must be dried to prevent mold. There are holes in walls where the leaks and pipe shutoffs were located. "We have no running water, lavatories or heat," he said. "We are told that it will be several months" before the congregation can use the building.

Now, the congregation is trying to get the word out.

Jagolinzer, who is active in the interfaith community on Aquidneck Island, said he spoke at a local church Feb. 28. "People were coming up to me to express their emotions for our plight. I was deeply and sincerely touched by these gestures."

The congregation has experienced devastation in the past. In 1974, their former building was hit with arson. "We lost everything," said Jagolinzer. "At that time, our congregation and our community rallied around us and eased our sadness and our burden. We came back stronger than before. We hope that this will be the case again this time."

Jagolinzer said the congregation is trying to move its various activities to other locations in the Middletown area. At press time, two events have been rescheduled.

Shabbat Across America, scheduled for March 4, will be held at t Forest Farm Assisted Living Center, 191 Forest Ave., Middletown. A deli dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. with Shabbat services following at 7:30.

The Purim spiel – "Lions and Tigers and Bears, OY VEY" – will go on as planned but at the United Congregational Church, 524 Valley Road, Middletown.

FRAN OSTENDORF is editor of The Jewish Voice.

Celebrate Purim

Wednesday Night, March 23, 2016 • 7:15 p.m.
Chabad House • 360 Hope Street • Providence

Wednesday night, March 23 – 7:15 p.m.

Megillah
to stir your soul…
Music & Dancing
to stir your heart…
Drinks & Hamentashen
to stir your kishkes!



Thursday, March 24, 8:30 a.m.
Chabad House – 360 Hope St., Providence
or Alliance Board Room at 12:00 p.m.
401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

MAGILLAH READING and HAMENTASHEN

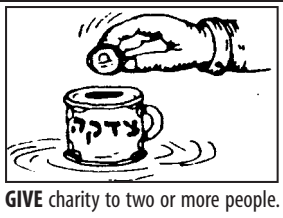
Thursday, March 24, 2016 – Purim is the time to…



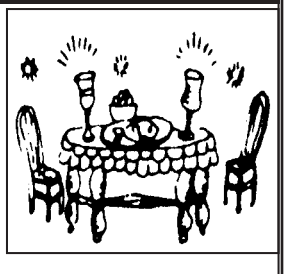
LISTEN to the reading of the *Megilla* (Book of Esther) this year Wednesday eve, March. 23, and again on Thursday, March 24, thereby recounting and reliving in our own day, the great miracle of Purim.



SEND a gift of at least two kinds of prepared food (pastry, fruit, beverage, etc.) to at least one friend. (Each item of food should be at least one ounce or more. 3-1/2 oz. for liquids.



GIVE charity to two or more people. If you cannot find poor people, place at least two coins in a charity box. In the Megillah this is called *"Matonos L'Evyonim".*



EAT the festive Purim meal and rejoice in the Purim spirit.

The above Mitzvos should be done on the day of Purim

More Purim information

FAST OF ESTHER

We fast on Wednesday, March 23 this year, This commemorates the day of prayer when Jews fasted before victorious battle. It is customary before the *Mincha* prayers on this day to give 3 half-dollars to charity. This commemorates the yearly contribution by all Jews to the Temple in the Hebrew month of Adar.

AL HANISSIM

Remember to add in the *Amidah* prayer and in Grace After Meals, the special part for Purim, beginning *"Al Hanissim.*



www.virtualpurim.com
for everything about
Purim
Fun and Educational

INVOLVE THE CHILDREN

As in all Mitzvot, encourage young children to fulfill the Purim Mitzvot. Boys and girls past Bar/Bat Mitzvah are obligated, as are adults to do all Purim Mitzvot.

The Purim Mitzvos (Precepts) demonstrate the unity and togetherness of the Jewish people. The more charity and Purim presents one gives the better. There is no greater joy than to gladden the heart of the poor, the orphans and the widows.



Courtesy of: Chabad R.I. • 360 Hope Street, Providence
Telephone: (401) 273-7238 • email: believeinprovidence@gmail.com
Year of Hakhel



Savory treat for Purim

BY FRAN OSTENDORF
fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org

Who doesn't love a tasty hamantashen? Most of the time, we go for the sweet side of this traditional Purim pastry. But thumbing through Amelia Saltsman's recent book, "The Seasonal Jewish Kitchen" (Sterling, 2015), I saw this savory dairy recipe that sounds absolutely delicious. Saltsman's book is organized by seasons, featuring recipes that reflect her eclectic background. Here's her offering for Purim.

Savory Persian Herb And Cheese Hamantashen

Makes 2 dozen 3-inch (7.5-cm) pastries

Reprinted with permission from The Seasonal Jewish Kitchen © 2015 by Amelia Saltsman, Sterling Epicure, an imprint of Sterling Publishing Co., Inc.

Hamantashen, the traditional triangular Ashkenazic Purim pastries, are typically a sweet treat. I've taken a savory approach here, using spring herbs, a Persian favorite, to honor Esther and Mordechai's heritage, as well as the season. With their flaky dough, these Haman's hats (or pockets or ears) are reminiscent of bourekas, the small hand pies popular in Israel and the eastern Mediterranean. You can make snack-size hamantashen or large ones for a vegetarian main dish (see the variation at the end of the recipe).

For the pastry

1½ cups (190 g) unbleached all-purpose flour
½ cup (60 g) whole wheat flour
½ teaspoon salt
¾ cup (170 g) cold butter, cut into ½-inch (12-mm) pieces
½ cup (120 ml) ice water

For the filling

1 bunch each Persian or regular mint, leek or garlic chives, pepper cress, green onions, and tarragon
¾ cup (170 g) labneh, homemade or store-bought
6 ounces (170 g) feta cheese, crumbled
1 egg, lightly beaten
1 egg, lightly beaten, for egg wash

To make the pastry:

In a large bowl, stir together the flours and salt with a fork. Scatter the butter over the flour mixture and, using your fingertips or a pastry blender, cut in the butter until the mixture resembles coarse sand with some flattened pieces of butter still visible. Stir in the ice water, a little at a time, until the dough just sticks together when pressed between your fingertips.

Gather the dough into a ball, wrap in plastic wrap, and flatten into a thick rectangle. Refrigerate for at least 15 minutes. (The dough can be made up to 3 days ahead and refrigerated; let it rest at room temperature until soft enough to roll out, about 15 minutes.)



PHOTOGRAPHY BY STACI VALENTINE

To make the filling:

Finely chop enough of each of the herbs in any combination preferred to total 1¼ cups (75 g) lightly packed. In a medium bowl, use a fork to mash together the labneh and feta. Stir in the egg, then stir in the chopped herbs.

To assemble the pastries:

Preheat the oven to 425°F (220°C). Have ready 2 sheet pans. If you like, line them with parchment paper.

Divide the dough in half and rewrap and refrigerate half of it. On a lightly floured work surface, roll out the other half into a rectangle or circle 1/16 to ⅛ inch (2 to 3 mm) thick. Cut out 12 circles each 3½ inches (9 cm) in diameter, rerolling any scraps as needed.

Mound 1 tablespoon of filling in the center of each dough circle. Fold the sides of the dough up over the filling to form a triangle, leaving a nickel-size bit of filling exposed. Pinch the three corners of the triangle very firmly to seal. Arrange the pastries on a sheet pan, spacing them about 1 inch (2.5 cm) apart.

Refrigerate the first batch while you make more with the remaining half of the dough and filling. Top off the pastries with any leftover filling. Brush the pastries with the egg wash.

Bake the pastries for 12 minutes; the bottoms will be light golden. Reduce heat to 375°F (190°C) and continue to bake until the crust is a rich gold and the filling is puffed and browned in places, 10 to 12 minutes longer. Using an offset spatula, transfer the pastries to a wire rack and let cool for 5 to 10 minutes before serving. Refrigerate leftover hamantashen; they can be reheated in a 350°F (180°C).

Main dish variation:

To make 6 large hamantashen, cut three 6-inch (15-cm) circles from each piece of dough. Use about ⅓ cup (70 g) of filling for each dough circle and fold as directed. As you complete shaping each hamantashen, use a wide offset spatula to move it onto the baking sheet. Bake at 425°F (220°C) for 15 minutes and at 375°F (190°C) for about 25 minutes.

Kitchen note:

Unbaked hamantashen can be frozen, well wrapped, for up to 1 week.

Brush frozen pastries with egg wash just before baking, and increase oven times to 15 and 18 minutes, respectively.

Family's sweet and sour meatballs are a treasure

BY SAMANTHA MATTOX

(The Nosher via JTA) – Every Jewish home has a sweet and sour meatballs recipe. For some of us it's scribbled down on a soiled napkin. For others it's in our favorite Kosher cookbook. And probably for most of us, it's not written down anywhere but instead trapped in our grandmas' heads.

That was the case for me until a couple of years ago, when my mom and I launched a mission to make a family cookbook. For hours we trailed my grandma around the kitchen with measuring cups, paper, a pen and lots of patience, and attempted to document one of our family's favorite recipes.

We are so happy we did! This one is absolutely delicious. Tender meatballs, chicken wings (my family's twist on the classic!) and that heavenly sweet and sour sauce.

Let's talk about that sauce for a minute – it's the epitome of a Jewish classic. It shows up in our meatballs, stuffed cabbage and brisket. Slightly sweet and slightly tangy, this sauce is the perfect combination of onion, garlic, tomato sauce, sugar and lemon juice (for my family, at least).

Now whenever I want to make sweet and sour meatballs, or my sister wants to, or my aunt wants to, we all pull out our copy of the family cookbook and can replicate Grandma's recipe perfectly. We still can't get Grandma to use her copy of the cookbook, but I guess she doesn't need to be reminded of the dishes she's been making us for years. Thanks Grandma.

Sweet and Sour Meatballs

Ingredients:

Chicken and Sauce:
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 pounds chicken wings
2 (8-ounce) cans tomato sauce
1 can chicken broth
3/4 cup sugar
2 teaspoons kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper

Meatballs:

1 1/2 pounds ground beef
1 large red potato, peeled and grated
1/4 large onion, grated
1 clove garlic, minced
2 eggs
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
Juice of 1 large lemon

Directions:

Heat vegetable oil in a 5-quart saucepan over medium heat. Add diced onion and garlic. Sauté until onions are soft, 5-6 minutes.

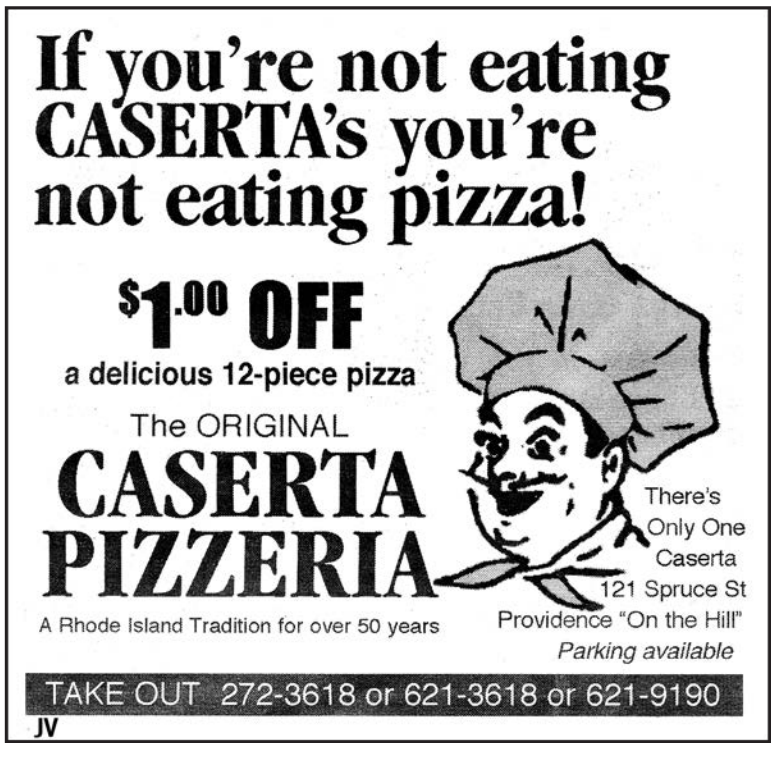
Add chicken, tomato sauce, chicken broth, sugar, salt and pepper. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes.

While the chicken is simmering, make the meatballs. In a large bowl, add ground beef, grated red potato, grated onion, garlic, eggs, salt and pepper. Mix together until just combined.

Form 1-inch meatballs and drop into the simmering sauce. Simmer uncovered for 30 minutes.

Skim fat from top and discard. Add lemon juice and simmer for an additional 30 minutes. Serve over wide egg noodles. Enjoy!

SAMANTHA MATTOX is the recipe developer and food lover behind Pass the Challah, a food blog full of crowd-pleasing Kosher recipes. Check out her recipes at passthechallah.com. The Nosher food blog offers a dazzling array of new and classic Jewish recipes and food news, from Europe to Yemen, from challah to shakshuka and beyond. Check it out at TheNosher.com.



Purim, Purim everywhere!

BY JEWISH VOICE STAFF

Looking for a spiel, carnival or party? Here are some of the community Purim events happening in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts. Information is up to date as of press time.





Orthodox

Beth Sholom: Purim Carnival
275 Camp St.
Providence
March 23, 6-7 p.m.
$10 admission, includes food
401-621-9393

Project Shoresh: Family Purim Extravaganza
March 20, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Suggested donation of $5
401-632-3165

Conservative

Congregation Beth David: Purim Carnival
53 Mumford Road
(Narragansett Community Center)
Narragansett
March 20, 10 a.m.-noon
401-789-3437

Congregation Tifereth Israel: Purim Celebration
145 Brownell Ave.
New Bedford
March 23, 5:30 p.m.
No charge for dinner, followed by megillah chanting.
Reserve by March 16.
508-997-3171

Temple Beth El of Fall River: Purim Celebration and "Politicians on the Roof"
385 High St.
Fall River
March 23, 5:30 p.m.
Megillah reading, followed by supper and a comic Purim musical send-up of the presidential nominees' race.
RSVP by March 14
508-674-3529

Temple Emanu-El: Purim Carnival
99 Taft Ave.
Providence
March 20, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
401-331-1616

Temple Emanu-El: Purim Spiel
99 Taft Ave.
Providence
March 23, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
401-331-1616

Temple Shalom: "Lions and Tigers and Bears, OY VEY!" FUNdraiser Purim Spiel
United Congegational Church
524 Valley Road
Middletown
March 20, 7-9 p.m.
$10 adults, $7 children ages 12 and under
401-846-9002

Temple Torat Yisrael: School and Purim Megillah Skit and Carnival
1251 Middle Road
East Greenwich
March 20, 8:45 a.m.
401-885-6600

Temple Torat Yisrael: Megillah Reading and Purim Feast
1251 Middle Road
East Greenwich
March 23, time TBD
401-885-6600

West Bay Community Jewish Center (WBCJC): Purim Service
2 Brenda Drive
Coventry
March 23, 6:30-8 p.m.
401-392-8452

Reform

Temple Beth-El: Purim Carnival
70 Orchard Ave.
Providence
March 13, 9 a.m.
401-331-6070

Temple Beth-El: Purim Celebration/K'TanTan Party
70 Orchard Ave.
Providence
March 23, 5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m.
401-331-6070

Temple Habonim: Purim Carnival
165 New Meadow Road
Barrington
March 20, 10:30 a.m.-noon
401-245-6536

Temple Habonim: "Wicked Purim"
165 New Meadow Road
Barrington
March 23, 6-9 p.m.
$3 for mac and cheese dinner
6 p.m., reservations required
401-245-6536

Temple Sinai: Purim Spiel/Carnival
30 Hagen Ave.
Cranston
March 13, 10:30 a.m./11 a.m.
12:30 p.m.
401-942-8350

Reconstructionist

Congregation Agudas Achim: Purim Carnival
901 North Main St.
Attleboro
March 20, 10 -11 a.m.
508-222-2243

Non-denominational

Brown RISD Hillel: Purim Party
Location TBD
March 24, 9 a.m.-noon
$10 in advance, $15 at door
401-863-2733

Chabad Chai Center of West Bay: Purim Feast and Bowling
6125 Post Road
(Kingstown Bowl)
North Kingstown
March 24, 5:00 p.m.
$20 adults, $10 kids, includes bowling and shoes
401-884-7888 or 401-884-4071

Jewish Community Day School Rhode Island: What Happens in Shushan Stays in Shushan! (Parent Association fundraising event)
85 Taft Drive
Providence
March 13, 6-10 p.m.
Marni Tilove or Valerie Philmus, PAsoiree@gmail.com

The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence: Purim Mitzvah Day
3 Shalom Drive
Warwick
March 13, 1 -2:30 p.m.
Hamantashen-making and more, to be delivered to local nursing homes
401-421-4111, ext. 146

URI Hillel Purim Party
6 Fraternity Circle
Kingston
March 16, 7-9 p.m.
401-874-2740



Camp JORI is a co-ed Jewish overnight and day camp that provides amazing summer experiences for children in grades K-10. Our comprehensive program of sports, arts, adventure and amazing activities is enhanced by our Jewish and Israeli culture and our strong sense of "TACEO" - Taking Care of Each Other. Summer days here are action-packed and an incredible value! **Contact: sharon@campjori.com • (401) 421-4111x124**

MAKE YOUR SUMMER DREAMS COME TRUE, CONTACT US TODAY!

Need Purim costume ideas for your little ones? We've got some good ones

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

One of Judaism's most festive holidays is coming up! Looking for new, simple and affordable ways to help your kids be a King, Queen or Villain? We've scooped up a few ideas for how to add a new twist to dressing up as some of your favorite Purim characters!



KING FOR A DAY

What you'll need:

An oversized purple T-shirt
Quilt batting
Decorative gold ribbon
Glue
Scissors

Cut a line down the front of a big purple T-shirt, and sew on some quilt batting to the cut edges. Glue on some gold and majestic trim to the edge of the sleeves. Who said it wasn't easy to become king?

A SKIRT FIT FOR A QUEEN

What you'll need:

10 yards (maybe a little less) of fabric of your choice
Piece of ribbon for waistband
Scissors

While Ashley recommends 10 yards of fabric, feel free to buy a little less for your little one.

Fold the fabric in half lengthwise and roll it up (it should look like a tube of wrapping paper.)

Cut into 5-6 inch sections – these should look like bathroom tissue rolls.

Fold these strips in half and tie to a piece of ribbon. Tie around your waist, and there you have it: an elegant skirt!

Throw on a favorite T-shirt, some similarly colored leggings and a crown for a full Esther costume.



HOMEMADE HAMAN HAT

What you'll need:

Two pieces of black construction paper
Scissors
Stapler

Haman's trademark triangular hat can be made in less than 10 minutes!

Fold both the pieces of paper into thirds, like a letter.

Cut the first piece along the folds, and round off the rectangles a little bit.

Staple together to form a standup triangle.

Next comes the headband, which will go inside the triangle.

Cut the second piece of paper along the folds, and staple together to make a headband.

Staple the circular headband to the inside of the triangle, and place upon your or your child's head.

Pair with some dark clothing, and you have yourself a villain!

For some old-fashioned flair, tie a colored rope cord around the waist/hip area.





TWO-TONED FELT CROWN

What you'll need:

Two pieces of felt, colors of your choice
Double-sided adhesive
Needle & thread
Optional: ribbon
Optional: small plastic gems
Scissors

The following instructions are a bit of a deviation from Jenny's original steps in the hope of making it easier, but the idea is generally the same!

Cut both the felt and the adhesive strips into 3.5-inch strips. You should have four felt strips and two adhesive strips.

With all four pieces of felt and the two strips of adhesive, sandwich two pieces of felt with an adhesive strip in the middle. Sew the two pieces together.

Cut out your crown – simple zigzag will work perfectly! Sew the other two ends of the crown together (or, for an extra bit of color, you can use the ribbon here around the base of the crown and tie it at the back to secure it.)

If you have gems, place them onto the base of the crown in whatever pattern you like using some leftover adhesive or glue.

Voila, a crown fit for a king or a queen!

Happy Purim!

KING: Photo and idea courtesy of http://bibleschoolteachers.blogspot.com/

QUEEN SKIRT: Photo and idea courtesy of http://ashleylivingeasy.blogspot.com/2012/12/tulle-skirt.html

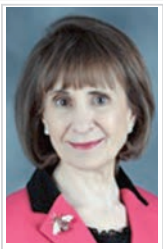
HAMAN HAT: Photo and idea courtesy of http://biblebeltbalabusta.com/2013/02/16/easy-haman-hat/

CROWN: Photo and idea courtesy of Jenny from http://www.hellobee.com/2012/05/30/diy-felt-crown/



The Jewish experience, from literature to YouTube

The arts have been a significant part of Jewish history since the very beginning, telling our story in the best and worst of circumstances. It has been a way for Jews to maintain a sense of cohesion over time, and a reminder of the tragedies and triumphs we have experienced. Art, whether it is painting, sculpture, theater, music, literature or film, has been a major form of expression for us.



PATRICIA RASKIN

One of the most influential Jewish artists, Marc Chagall, depicted Jewish traditions and themes in his liberal and abstract works.

Among my favorite films is Steven Spielberg's award-winning "Schindler's List," which brought that time in history to me in such a visceral way. "The Woman in Gold" is a film that captures the pain of families that were forcefully torn apart at the beginning of the Holocaust, as well as telling a story about Jewish art.

In the world of music, George Gershwin is one of my favorites and one of the most significant composers of the 20th century. Jewish melodies in general bring the past, present and future together.

One of the most controversial trials of the 20th century, the Nuremberg trials, was depicted in a 1996 movie, "Judgment at Nuremberg." On Saturday, April 2, the Nuremberg trials will be discussed as part of a larger talk on trials that changed America, presented at the One Day University, to be held in the Rhode Island Convention Center.

The founder and director of One Day University is Steven Schragis, who was inspired to create the day of learning after hearing professors' lectures while visiting his daughter at college. More than 15,000 adults have participated in these learning opportunities across the country.

To register for the event in Providence, go to onedayu.com and use the code PAT for a special price of $99 (the regular price is $129) or call 800-300-3438.

I came across a video on YouTube that I feel sums up the Jewish experience. "I'm That Jew," by Eitan Chitayat, although somewhat startling, sobering and satirical, gives us a snapshot of the perceptions of Jews by ourselves and others. In the words of Chitayat, "Rise up, speak up and keep your chins up. We'll get through this because we love life and we're strong and smart and funny and beautiful and talented and resilient and educated and hard-working and positive and so much more." Anyone reading this identify with those words?

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.



Milestone for first-graders

PHDS first graders smile with their new siddurim received at their Siddur Party on Feb. 16. Also pictured are Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, dean, and Rabbi Avrohom Jakubowicz, first grade Judaic studies teacher.



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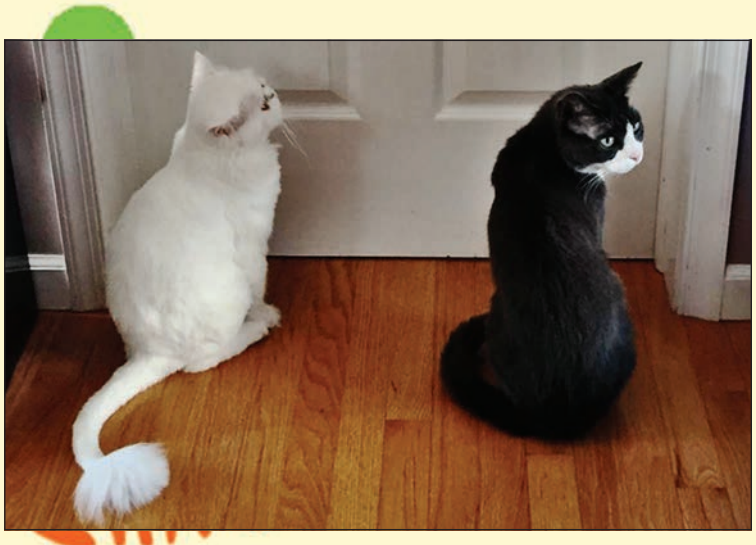
Jewish Voice Pets on Parade



The time has come to put your favorite companions on display. Not the ones you take to baseball games or grab a coffee with, but your furry, fuzzy, scaly, feathery friends. The ones who roll onto their backs and, without speaking, ask you to scratch their bellies, or the ones who paw mercilessly at a dangling toy placed in front of their faces. We asked you to send in some of your pets' best glamour shots for our famous Pets on Parade section, and you exceeded our expectations; we received way more pictures than we did for last year's parade! Check out the following four pages to see some of the most cuddly and playful members of the community. Try not to get overwhelmed with the cuteness!



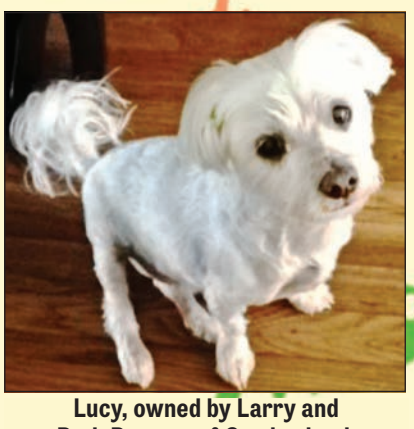
Max, owned by Bobby Oresman; Cottonball and Skandel, owned by David Odessa; and Diesel and Derby, owned by Buddy Trinkle, all of Providence



Bushka, left, and Flex wait for their owner, Jim Norris of Little Compton.



Sophie with her owner, Christine A. Tricarico, of Johnston.



Lucy, owned by Larry and Beth Berman of Cumberland.



Jedie, owned by G.M. DeVecchis, of Cranston.



Frankie, owned by Lauri and Terri Lee of Providence.



Warren, owned by John Cardullo and Donna Morse, of Coventry.

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Jewish Voice Pets on Parade



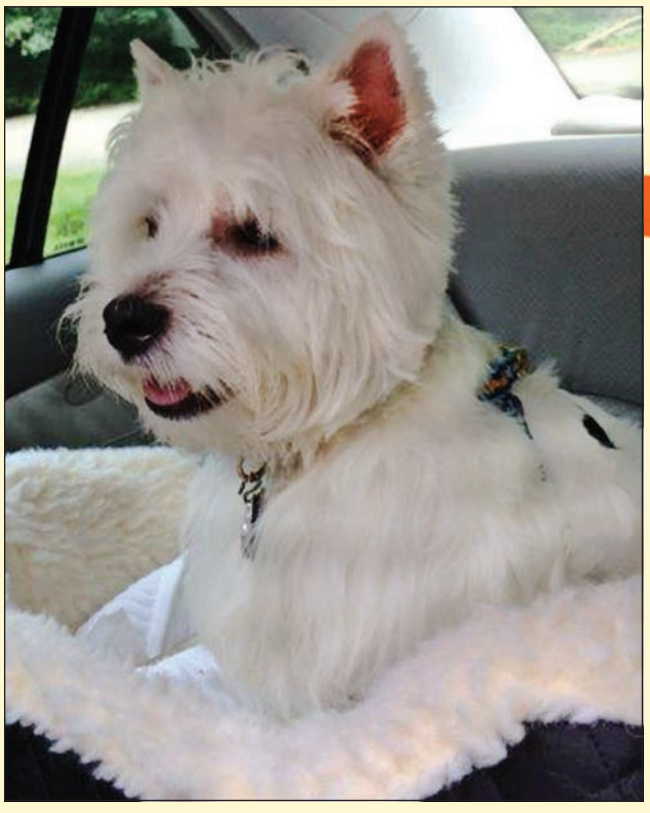
Lilly, owned by Beverly Manekofsky Paris, of Warwick.



Cleo, left, and Charlotte, owned by Wayne, Rebecca and Zinnia Marcus, of Cranston.



Timmy, owned by Andy Namerow, of Providence.



Jagger, owned by Stanley and Madeline Kanter, of Barrington.



Daisy, owned by Sarah Garber, of Middletown.

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Ozzy, owned by Lauri and Terry Lee, of Providence.



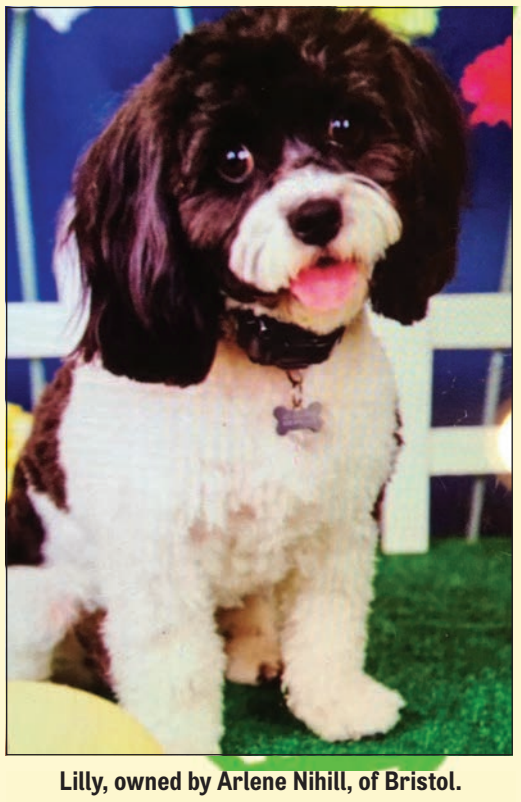
June, a therapy dog, owned by Ida and Tom Brown of Hopatcong, N.J. Ida Bochner-Brown is formerly from Rhode Island.



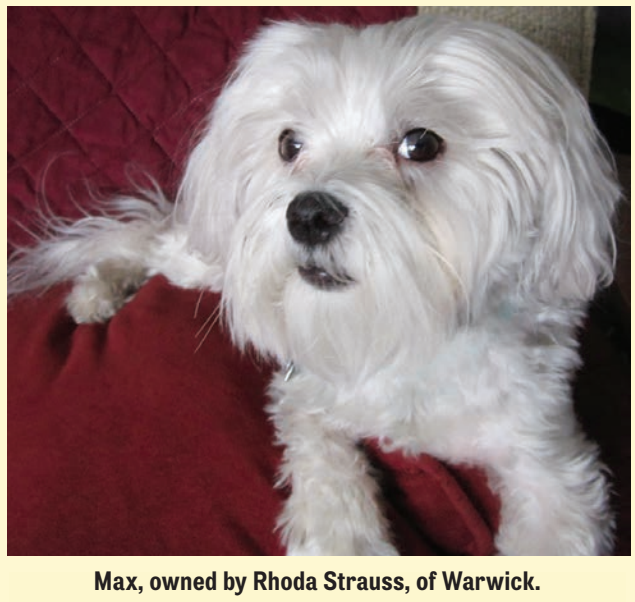
Caleb, owned by Pamela Mahon, of Coventry.



Obie, owned by Karen Drucker Stern, of Pawtucket.



Lilly, owned by Arlene Nihill, of Bristol.



Max, owned by Rhoda Strauss, of Warwick.



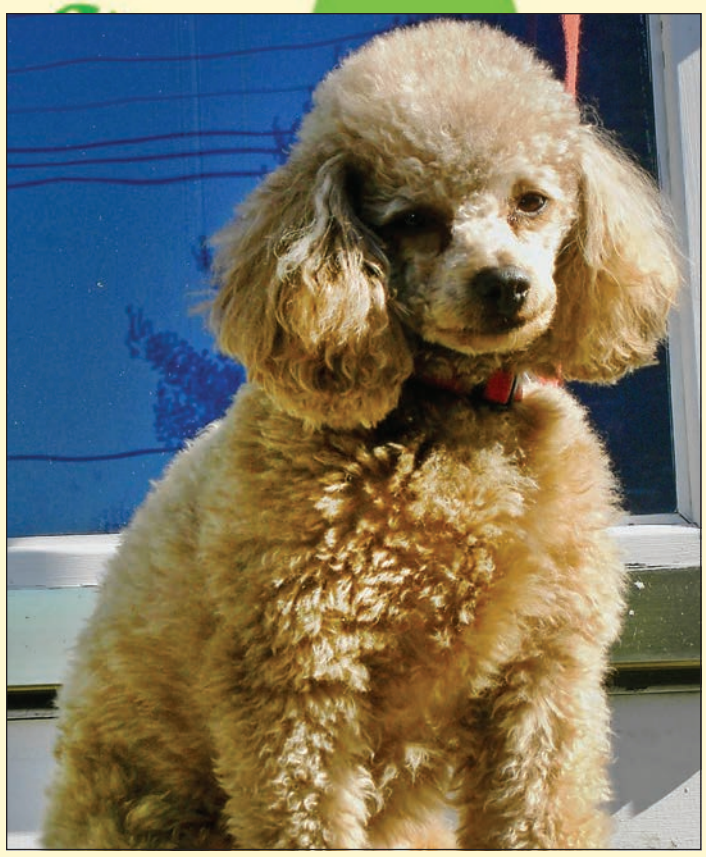
Peaches, owned by Bob Camara, of Tiverton.

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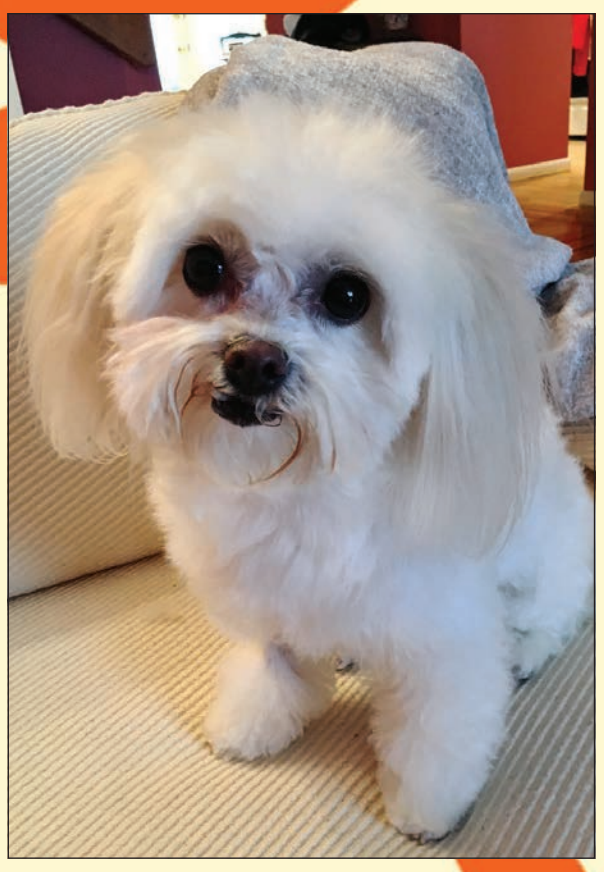
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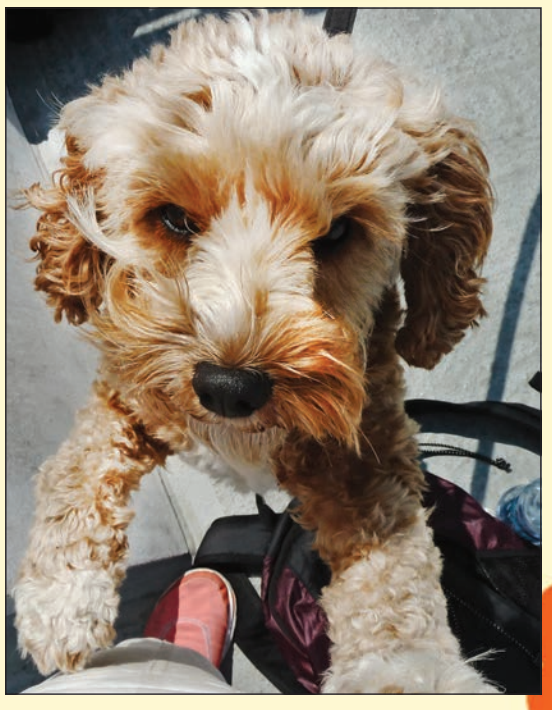
Max, owned by Arlene Blank, of Providence.



Miss Molly, owned by anonymous, of Swansea, Mass.



Gracie, owned by Judy Siegel, of Providence.



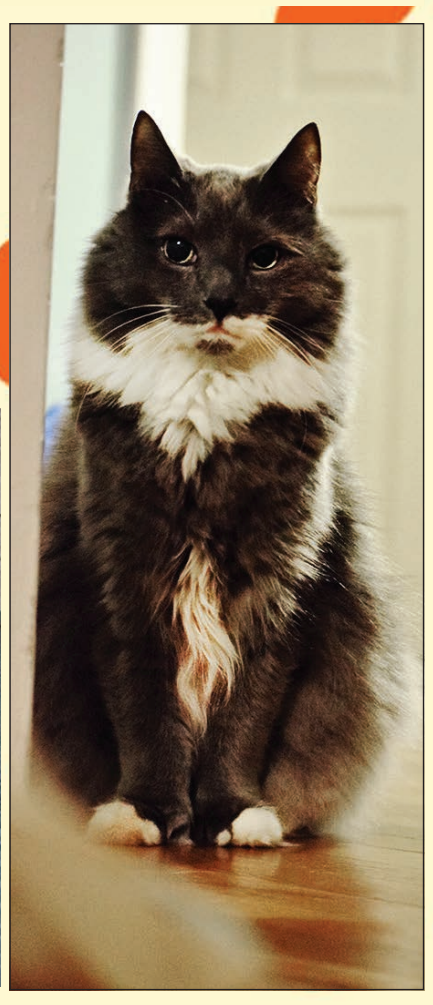
Ruby, owned by Sara Levy, of Cambridge, Mass.



Jill and Cocoa, on couch, Hayley on pillow, owned by Neil Dwares, of East Providence.



Toby, owned by Nancy Cooney, of West Warwick.



Max, owned by Arlene Blank, of Providence.

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Pet Owners: Tips to keep floors in tip-top shape

(StatePoint) – Whether you share your home with dogs, cats, birds, turtles or anything in between, you are probably aware of the challenges of protecting and cleaning your floors.

To make this chore as easy for you as it is for your non-pet parent peers, consider the following tips:

Pets in Boots

Outfitting pets with boots before going outside will protect their paws from pollutants, hot and cold surfaces, and potentially sharp items on the ground. It will also keep their feet and your floors cleaner. There are many brands and styles available, so shop around for a design that your pets will enjoy wearing.

Post-Walk Clean-Up

After walks or other trips outdoors, check your pet's fur and feet. Keep a cloth by the door for a quick clean-up before animals settle in and get cozy on carpets. This will make maintaining floors easier as you go.

Prevent Accidents

Prevent pooch accidents by getting your dog on a regular walk schedule. The knowledge that the next trip outdoors is on the horizon will make pets less likely to use the living room carpet as a toilet. If need be, you may want to consider employing a day-time dog walker to make trips outdoors a more regular occurrence. If you have litter box issues, keep the box clean to encourage dedicated use.

Regular visits to the veterinarian can help ensure there are no health issues at play.

Choose Flooring Wisely

Until now, even the best prevention of stains and accidents has offered no guarantees. And shedding of fur, feathers and dander is hard to avoid. However, innovations in flooring are making it easier on those who love their pets but are not interested in forfeiting a clean, stain-free and odor-free home.

Give yourself an advantage with a pet proof carpet, such as Mohawk's SmartStrand Forever Clean carpet, which is designed to resist the challenges pets present. Compared to nylon carpet, which absorbs up to 5 percent of its weight in liquid, this alternative has zero percent moisture absorption to resist stains and eliminate any residue that can be left in the fiber which can lead to a musty, dingy odor. (These features will also benefit those with kids.) It also offers a permanent spill and soil shield that makes cleanup of hair, soil and dander three times easier than with conventional carpeting.

Protect Floors Financially

Consider a pet-specific warranty for carpeting to better protect your investment.

Pet owners need not forgo a clean and great-smelling home. There are many smart ways to limit stains, prevent accidents and make clean-up easier when incidents occur.



Purr-fect tips to protect cats year-round



(Family Features) – When cooler weather arrives, you may assume your pet is safe from parasites – especially if your cat lives mostly or exclusively indoors. To the contrary, identifying the risk for parasites, such as fleas, ear mites and heartworms, and providing true pest protection for your pets has very little to do with the seasons.

"Back when I was in veterinary school, we believed there were parasite 'seasons,'" said Chris Adolph, DVM, MS, DACVM, a board certified parasitologist, veterinary specialist at Zoetis and former veterinary practice owner in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. "Today's highly variable weather patterns have resulted in the possibility of parasite transmission well beyond traditionally warmer months, and in turn, increasing the likelihood of infection or infestation to your pets."

Cat owner Lauren Swern learned the hard way that even indoor cats can be afflicted with parasites and ultimately traced a flea infestation in her cat, Oreo, back to a pair of sneakers she'd worn in the garden.

After trashing most of Oreo's toys and bedding, Swern's veterinarian recommended a topical, broad-spectrum preventive. After treatment with Revolution(r) (selamectin), Swern's home was again flea-free and continues that way thanks to monthly treatments she applies to her cat.

The best way to protect your furry feline friend year-round is by following a few simple tips:

• **Routine checkups.** You may believe that once your kitten has received its vaccinations, you're finished with veterinary visits. Actually, it's important to continue taking your cat for annual examinations to help maintain a high quality of life. Cats tend to hide illness very well, and your veterinarian can help identify problems you may miss at home as well as guide you in areas such as dental care, nutrition and behavior.

• **Preventive medication.** Regular use of a monthly parasite preventive, such as Revolution, can protect your cat from many common internal and external parasites. Along with fleas, broad-spectrum preventives can address risks related to heartworm disease, ear mites (Otodectes cynotis), roundworms (Toxocara cati) and hookworms (Ancylostoma tubaeforme).

• **Behavior monitoring.** Don't assume that a cat that begins exhibiting behavior problems is simply acting out. Most undesirable behaviors, such as suddenly refusing to use a litter box or aggression, can actually be signs of illness. Consulting a veterinarian can help you determine the best course of action.

• **Consider the climate.** Just as extreme temperatures can affect people, excess heat and cold may impact your cat. Cozy bedding in front of a bright window may provide just the right warmth in winter, but prove too toasty in the summer. Make adjustments throughout the year to keep your kitty comfortable as temperatures change.

• **Ample activities.** Even mellow kitties can benefit from exercise, just like humans. Provide toys to encourage cats to keep active and healthy – and offer diversions such as scratching posts from temptations like carpet or furniture. Mental stimulation is also important. Placing birdfeeders or birdbaths outside of windows and hiding small amounts of food at different levels throughout the house for your cat to find can help keep your pet entertained as well as mentally sharp.



Cats have the run of Israel

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

Cats' prowess, mastery of hunting, and cute little faces have appealed to and mystified humans for thousands of years – just ask the ancient Egyptians, who literally worshipped cats and had a goddess named Bastet who took the form of a cat.

In the past few years, humans have taken to worshipping cats again, albeit in a slightly different way. Through Internet graphics, we humans have again become fascinated by felines, except instead of Bastet we have face-in-bread cat, Grumpy cat, and numerous other images of adorableness. It seems that nobody is immune to the captivating antics and curiosity that cats embody.

Nobody, that is, except for Israel's minister of agriculture, Uri Ariel.

Anyone who has been to Israel, and some who haven't, know that stray cats are everywhere there: In the streets, in dumpsters, climbing those striking palm trees we in New England all wish adorned our lawns … you look somewhere, and you'll probably spot a furry tail somewhere in your periphery. As the Washington Post's William Booth writes, "Muslim, Christian or Jew? The cats don't care. They're in every neighborhood."



It is estimated that there are nearly 2 million cats on the streets of Israel.

How did Ariel propose to fix this pawsitively perpetual problem? Cat-a-pult them out, of course! (Just kidding.) He did, however, propose to deport them to a Third World country that is receptive to receiving a large number of Israel's street cats. And when news of this proposal broke, the Israeli public had a collective decrying session/laughing fit on Twitter.

But fear not, readers! The proposal was shot down. While other solutions – solutions that will not violate Jewish law and will therefore not involve killing or torture – are being examined, Israel's kitties get to see another day of dumpster-diving for last night's gefilte fish.

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



The science behind the love we have for our animals

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

The past century has seen a change in perspective on animals that have played a role in humans' domestic lives for several millennia. However, according to an article on the website of the popular pet food Pedigree, this change didn't happen overnight.

When humans first started recording their daily affairs, animals were viewed as nothing more than materials for food, clothing, household tools, transportation and other uses. Eventually, they eased their way into the realm of companionship when they proved their usefulness in hunting and working.

Over time, animals became valued companions, and thus came the idea of pets for the aristocracy, followed by pets for the rest of us.

With this new view of our furry, scaly and feathery friends, researchers have begun to identify reasons why we enjoy our pets' company. They have found that we don't only enjoy pets for companionship, but they also actually improve our physical and mental health:

• Petting our pets fires up the happy parts of our brains. According to an article on NBC's website, petting your dog – specifically your dog – helps to increase happy hormones and reduce stress hormones. I saw firsthand how this kind of research can really benefit people when I met a woman who had a guide dog for an anxiety disorder, and she said that having him saved her life.

• Some people are natural caregivers. In addition to having children and/or working in a helping profession, these people gravitate toward pets. For those who like to take care of others, but don't want to commit to parenthood or a helping profession, having pets is a great option.

• Many studies have shown that having a pet helps our health. An article on the website of the TV channel Animal Planet says that pets can help humans combat depression and instill a sense of purpose in their lives.

• Pets help us socialize. A kind of indirect benefit of owning pets is that they can be a big talking point when socializing. Whether you're out walking your pet, or it comes up in conversation – which leads to poring over pictures of our pets that are stored on our phones - we want to talk about the things we love.

• Our obsession with pets is cultural. It's not everywhere that people experience a spiritual awakening upon passing the threshold of PetSmart. Adam Tschorn argues in an article in the L.A. Times that it's because we have more disposable income in our economy. Some might disagree with this, but one reminder is the celebrities who spend thousands on a diamond-studded collar for their pet or for other luxuries, like massages and manicures, makes it hard to argue against its existence.

• They're adorable and hilarious!

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

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Beth Sholom gala honors Torah, prayer, good deeds

BY JEWISH VOICE STAFF



Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Rapaport

A sold-out crowd enjoyed music, fine dining, comedy, heartfelt speeches and even some Jewish learning at the Congregation Beth Sholom (CBS) gala, held in the Providence synagogue on Feb. 21.

The theme of the evening was the Jewish teaching that the world stands on three pillars: Torah, prayer and deeds of loving-kindness. In that spirit, husband and wife Drs. Jonah and Rashmi Licht were honored for Torah, Dr. Stuart Rapaport for prayer, and Dr. David Mandelbaum for deeds of loving-kindness.

Drs. Jonah and Rashmi Licht, a nephrologist and urologist, respectively, have devoted their lives to growing in Torah. They live in Providence and have supported numerous Torah organizations in the area for years.

Dr. Stuart Rapaport, an optometrist who lives in New York, has been traveling to CBS with his family for 26 years to be the cantor for the High Holy Days. His prayers have helped make the services at CBS both beautiful and inspiring.

Dr. David Mandelbaum, a neurologist, heads Judy's Kindness Kitchen, a soup kitchen that prepares food on Sunday mornings at CBS and serves it at Crossroads Rhode Island and the Emmanuel House Homeless Shelter, both in Providence. The organization is inspired by and named after Mandelbaum's mother, Judy Werber, who is remembered as a model of warmth and hospitality, and a legendary cook.

"The impact that our honorees have had on Providence cannot be overstated," said William Krieger, president of CBS. "By feeding minds with Torah, spirits with prayer, and the hardest hit of Providence with food and empathy, Drs. Licht, Rapaport and Mandelbaum represent the best of our community."

CBS's Rabbi Barry Dolinger said, "The packed house, high-energy event was a testament to the dedication and commitment of the honorees, and a sign of a growing and spiritually ascendant congregation."

After a classical musical performance by Fishel Bresler, dinner and the speeches, Dr. Rapaport surprised the crowd with a stand-up comedy performance that poked not-so-gentle fun at Jewish life – and brought the house down.



Drs. Rashmi and Jonah Licht, left, and Dr. David Mandelbaum, right, with Rabbi Barry Dolinger.

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A pickle of an education

BY JOHN LANDRY

Ken Wagner, Rhode Island's superintendent of education, recently called for a revolution in schooling. Instead of the 19th-century industrial approach of a teacher instructing students in a set curriculum, he called for "reimagining schooling through hands-on, integrated and problem-based approaches" in a Providence Journal Op-Ed.

That sounds good, but what does it mean in practice? The Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island has been in the process of finding out. And it just took a big leap forward, thanks to the lowly pickle.

Last fall, the fifth-grade class was finishing up a fairly traditional science project on ecosystems. It involved goldfish, and when all the fish died in their shallow 2-liter-bottle habitats, the students were upset. They clamored for a class aquarium. Rather than put them off, Kayla Magee, their general studies teacher, told them they could have one if they raised the money for it.

After some brainstorming, these 10- to 11-year-olds decided to make and sell a favorite lunchtime snack: pickles. With encouragement from Head of School Adam Tilove, Magee turned that goal into the curriculum for the next month. She put aside most of her planned instruction and supported the students' efforts.

Fortunately, the pickle challenge involved nearly every subject in the curriculum. The initial research involved extensive reading. On a field trip to Whole Foods Market, students learned the science of pickling that could turn a fresh cucumber into something that would last for months in a jar. To find the best size and price for the pickle jar, they had to resort to math. Decisions – from which kind of pickle to make (half-sour garlic) to the name on the jar (EastSide Pickles) – were by majority vote, preceded by extensive writing and speaking. And to ensure that the pickles were kosher, the kids had to learn some of the intricacies of kashrut from Judaic Studies teacher Rabbi Andrea Gouze.

Along the way, they picked up some entrepreneurial skills, from calling produce suppliers for a good deal on cucumbers and garlic, to designing the logo and information area on the jar. They even got a crash course on spreadsheets to record their sales against expenses.

Magee had all the students keep track of progress in notebooks, complete with comments and questions. She assessed each student on the notebooks and participation in class deliberations. And because of the collaborative structure and diverse tasks, the quieter or less engaged kids were able to become more involved and find an area to shine.

The students were caught up in the process, which felt very different from school. Toward the end of the project, she gave them a math quiz, to check on their skills during the experiment. They first objected, "We haven't done math in a long time," yet they did well on the test.

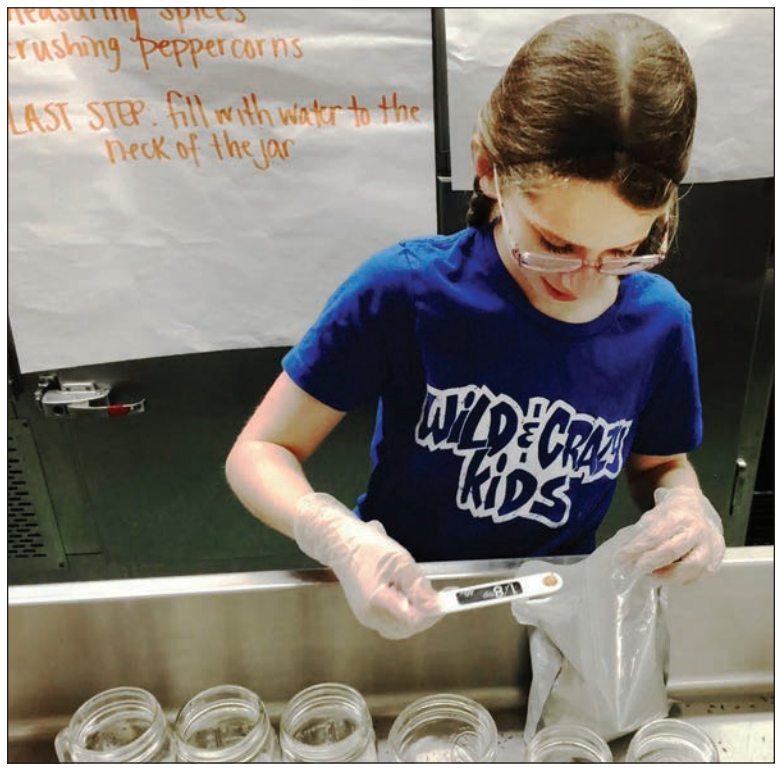
Finally, the pickles were ready for sale. Within a few days, the entire batch of 100 jars sold out to classmates, family members and neighbors. The $300 earned after expenses was more than enough to outfit an aquarium. Far more valuable was the engaged learning, both for the students and the school.

Magee hopes to do a similar challenge every year, but she's convinced it has to come from the students and be driven by them. What if nothing captures their imagination? She says she's not worried at all about that – kids will always find something to reach for if they know their school will support them.

JOHN LANDRY is a business writer in Providence and the father of two graduates of JCDS.



JCDS fifth graders prepare the garlic for their pickles.



PHOTOS | JCDSRI

Measuring the ingredients for the pickles.



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There's still time to contribute to your IRA for 2015

There's still time to make a regular IRA contribution for 2015! You have until your tax return due date (not including extensions) to contribute up to $5,500 for 2015 ($6,500 if you were age 50 by Dec. 31, 2015). For most taxpayers, the contribution deadline for 2015 is April 18, 2016, but it's April 19, 2016, if you live in Maine or Massachusetts.



BARBARA KENERSON

You can contribute to a traditional IRA, a Roth IRA, or both, as long as your total contributions don't exceed the annual limit (or, if less, 100 percent of your earned income). You may also be able to contribute to an IRA for your spouse for 2015, even if your spouse didn't have any income last year.

Traditional IRA

You can contribute to a traditional IRA for 2015 if you had taxable compensation and were younger than age 70 1/2 on Dec. 31, 2015. However, if you or your spouse were covered by an employer-sponsored retirement plan in 2015, then your ability to deduct your contributions may be limited or eliminated, depending on your filing status and your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI). Even if you can't deduct your traditional IRA contribution, you can always make nondeductible (after-tax) contributions to a traditional IRA, regardless of your income level. However, in most cases, if you're eligible, you'd be better off contributing to a Roth IRA instead of making nondeductible contributions to a traditional IRA.

For those covered by an employer-sponsored plan, here are the 2015 income phase-out ranges for determining deductibility of traditional IRA contributions:

- Single/head of household, your IRA deduction is reduced if your MAGI is $61,000 to $71,000; eliminated if your MAGI is $71,000 or more
- Married filing jointly, $98,000 to $118,000; $118,000 or more
- Married filing separately, $0 to $10,000; $10,000 or more.

If you are not covered by an employer-sponsored retirement plan, but filing a joint return with a spouse who is covered by a plan, your IRA deduction is reduced if your MAGI is $183,000 to $193,000; eliminated if your MAGI is $193,000 or more.

Roth IRA

You can contribute to a Roth IRA if your MAGI is within certain dollar limits, even if you're 70 1/2 or older. For 2015, if you file your federal tax return as single or head of household, you can make a full Roth contribution if your income is $116,000 or less. Your maximum contribution is phased out if your income is between $116,000 and $131,000, and you can't contribute at all if your income is $131,000 or more.

Similarly, if you're married and file a joint federal tax return, you can make a full Roth contribution if your income is $183,000 or less. Your contribution is phased out if your income is between $183,000 and $193,000, and you can't contribute at all if your income is $193,000 or more. And if you're married filing separately, your contribution phases out with any income over $0, and you can't contribute at all if your income is $10,000 or more.

Even if you can't make an annual contribution to a Roth IRA because of the income limits, there's an easy workaround.

If you haven't yet reached age 70 1/2, you can simply make a nondeductible contribution to a traditional IRA, and then immediately convert that traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. Keep in mind, however, that you'll need to aggregate all traditional IRAs and SEP/SIMPLE IRAs you own – as opposed to IRAs you've inherited – when you calculate the taxable portion of your conversion. (This is sometimes called a "back-door" Roth IRA.)

Finally, remember that if you make a contribution to a Roth IRA for 2015 – no matter how small – by your tax return due date, and this is your first Roth IRA contribution, your five-year holding period for identifying qualified distributions from all your Roth IRAs (other than inherited accounts) will start on Jan. 1, 2015.

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

FROM PAGE 1

DISABILITY

travel over rough terrain.

The company is one of several startups focused on improving the lives of the nearly 1 million Israelis with disabilities.

A3I, a startup accelerator housed at Beit Issie Shapiro, an Israeli advocacy organization for people with disabilities, has helped launch 22 disability projects in the past two years. *Tikkun Olam* Makers, a three-day competition where tech entrepreneurs design projects for people with disabilities, had three events in Israel in 2014 and 2015.

"We very much think one of the missing approaches in the world of disability is the entrepreneurial approach," said Shira Ruderman, director of the Ruderman Family Foundation, which supports A3I. "We wanted to work with organizations that are not disability oriented."

Here are five Israeli companies helped by A3I that are making the world more accessible to people with disabilities.

Paratrek

Zur and his co-founder, Ziv Demeter, saw no reason why people in wheelchairs should not enjoy a hike. So they outfitted a chair with oversize wheels, mountain bike-style tires and a wide rod in back for easier pushing. A U-shaped harness attached to the front allows it to be pulled like a rickshaw.

Zur and Demeter also act as hiking consultants for would-be hikers. Understanding their clients' physical limits and where they want to hike, the company can set up a trek and even join in to make sure all goes smoothly.

The pair have set up hikes across Israel, as well as in France and, later this year, in Switzerland. They're also looking into using rescue equipment to help people with disabilities climb mountainsides.

IC Touch

A pair of glasses normally would be useless to a blind person. But Zeev Zalevsky's glasses don't help you see what's in front of you – they help you feel it.

Zalevsky's startup, IC Touch, makes glasses that take and process a picture before sending a signal to a set of tiny mirrors that are millimeters from the wearer's eyes. The mirrors then send a set of vibrations to the cornea that make the cornea "feel" objects in the space around it. Instead of guiding themselves with a stick or a dog, Zalevsky says, blind people can feel their surroundings with the glasses, even identifying objects up to a half-mile away.

"It's like if you close your eyes and feel your surroundings with your fingertips, you can imagine what's in front of you," said Zalevsky, an engineering professor at Bar-Ilan University. "Instead of reaching out in front of you, the picture comes to your head."

Gemon

The screen looks a little like the classic 1980s arcade game Frogger, in which an amphibian tries to cross a busy street. In this version, a red car has to maneuver through blue cars to reach an open lane – but instead of using buttons and a joystick, players move the car by raising a pole from one notch to the next. Sensors in each notch capture the motion and project the car's progress on an iPad.

The game, the initial offering from the startup Gemon, helps strengthen the upper back of people with disabilities or those recovering from an injury. The company aims to "game-ify" rehabilitation to relieve the tedium of staring at an exercise machine all day. Co-founders Tomer Yannay and Ohad Doron are also creating a sensor that can be attached to any workout machine to transform the exercise into a game. Eventually, Yannay says, the games could even appear in health clubs.

Easy Stroll

Adira was eight months pregnant and about to become a single mother, but she had a problem: She couldn't take her baby for a walk.

Adira is in a wheelchair and can't push a stroller. So she contacted Dana Yichye-Shwachman, a designer with Jonathan Bar-Or Industrial Design. Yichye-Shwachman responded with Easy Stroll, an aluminum attachment to the wheelchair's footboard that latches on to a stroller.

Yichye-Shwachman posted a video of the product online and received 30 emails for new orders. She is now creating a prototype that will fit a variety of wheelchairs and strollers.

Siman Shenagish

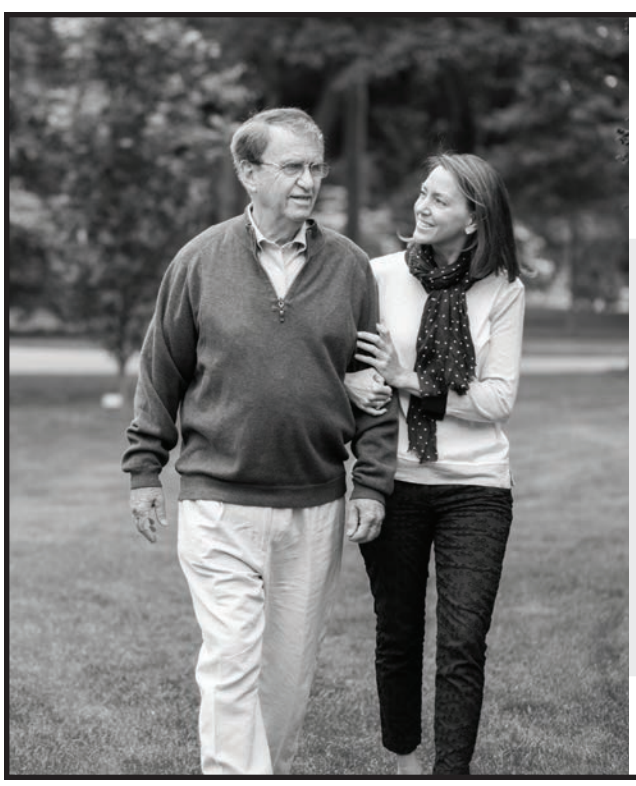
Few children have to accompany their parents to the bank and explain to them that their account is in overdraft. But for Tal Bousidan, days like that were routine.

Bousidan was born to two deaf parents. With sign-language interpreters in short supply in Israel, he would fill the role for his parents, explaining to them what bank tellers and shop clerks were unable to communicate on their own.

Now a professional sign-language interpreter, Bousidan has created a startup that provides instantaneous Hebrew sign-language translation via tablet computers.

The startup, Siman Shenagish – Hebrew for "accessible sign" – has a pilot running at a health clinic in the southern city of Ashkelon. Deaf patients tap on the iPad, and a full-time translator appears on the screen ready to translate for the doctor. The startup has plans to expand to Tel Aviv, and Bousidan hopes to provide translation in other languages in the future.

This article is part of a series tied to Jewish Disability & Inclusion Awareness Month which took place in February and is part of JTA's partnership with the Ruderman Family Foundation. Guided by Jewish values, the foundation advocates for and advances the inclusion of people with disabilities throughout the Jewish community.



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‘Son of Saul,’ ‘Amy’ and ‘Spotlight’ win Oscars

LOS ANGELES (JTA) – A Hungarian Holocaust drama, a documentary about a sultry Jewish rock star who died too young and a film about an investigation of church sex abuse led by a Jewish newspaper editor won Academy Awards.

“Son of Saul,” the Hungarian Holocaust drama from first-time feature director Laszlo Nemes, won the Oscar on Feb. 28 for best foreign language film.

“Even in the darkest hours of mankind, there might be a voice within us that allows us to remain human. That’s the hope of this film,” Nemes said in accepting the award at the annual Oscar ceremony in Los Angeles.

“Son of Saul,” which was partly financed by the Claims Conference, is the second consecutive Holocaust film to win in the foreign film category. In 2015, “Ida,” about a young soon-to-be nun who learns her parents were Jews killed during World War II, won for Poland.

Set in Auschwitz in 1944, “Son of Saul” tells the story of Saul Auslander, a Jewish inmate forced to escort his fellow prisoners to the gas chambers and help to dispose of their remains. The title role is played by Geza Rohrig, a Hungarian poet and observant Jew who now lives in New York.

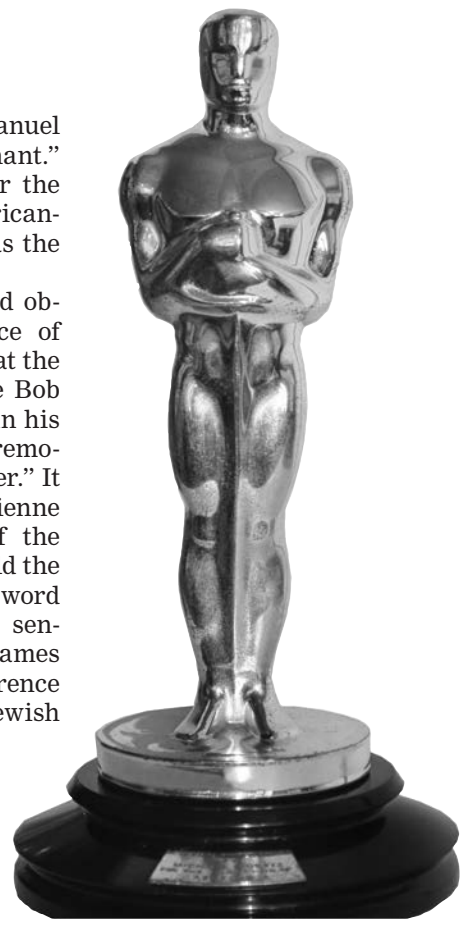
Other Jewish-themed winners included the documentary feature “Amy,” a British film about singer-songwriter Amy Winehouse, described by her brother as “a little Jewish kid from North London with a big talent.” Her meteoric career and tortured life were cut short at age 27 by drug abuse and alcohol poisoning.

Michael Sugar won the Oscar for best picture as co-producer of “Spotlight,” the story of the Boston Globe investigative team led by Jewish editor Marty Baron that exposed sex scandals in the Catholic Church. Baron’s status as the “outsider” of the Globe’s investigation, marked by everything from his quiet demeanor to his non-Christian background, is an underlying theme of the film.

“This film gives a voice to survivors, and this Oscar amplifies the voice which we hope will become a choir that will resonate all the way to the Vatican,” Sugar said in accepting the prize. “Pope Francis, it’s time to protect the children and restore the faith.”

Other Jewish winners included Josh Singer (with Tom McCarthy) for best original screenplay for “Spotlight,” and cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki for “The Revenant.” Lubezki won the prize for the third year in a row. American-Israeli Arnon Milchan was the film’s co-producer.

Veteran Academy Award observers noted the absence of the old-time Jewish jokes at the ceremony, as when emcee Bob Hope once lamented that in his house the Oscar award ceremony was known as “Passover.” It was left to brash comedienne Sarah Silverman, one of the award presenters, to uphold the tradition by squeezing the word “*mishegas*” into her few sentences and referring to James Bond’s supposed preference for women with “heavy Jewish boobs.”



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Stuart J. Aaronson, 71

EAST PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Stuart J. Aaronson passed away on Feb. 22 at the Evergreen House Health Center. He was born in Boston, Mass., and was raised by his mother, Roberta (Barron) Loebenberg, and her late husband, Stanley T. Loebenberg, in Providence.



Stuart graduated from Brown University in 1966, where he was involved with Brown's radio station, WBRU, both on-air and behind-the-scenes. He owned the Rhode Island School of Broadcasting prior to joining Sanford White Company Inc. as vice president. Most recently he was the owner of Stuart Manufacturing LLC.

He was passionate about the Reform Jewish movement and was involved locally, regionally and nationally in Jewish organizations. He was a lifelong member and honorary trustee of Temple Beth-El, and served as the chair of the Temple's building committee. He dedicated a significant portion of his time to Men of Reform Judaism, first serving as president of Temple Beth-El's Brotherhood and later as national president of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods. He was also active with Jewish Family Service of R.I. and the northeast region of the Union for Reform Judaism.

Besides his mother, Stuart is survived by his daughter, Rachel Auslander, and her husband, James, of Arlington, Va., and his beloved grandson Joshua.

Contributions in Stuart's memory can be made to the Temple Beth-El Brotherhood, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906 or the URJ Eisner and Crane Lake Scholarship, 160 Chubb Ave., Suite 207, Lyndhurst, N.J. 07071.

Paul J. Arbor, 62

WARWICK, R.I. – Paul J. Arbor died Feb. 23. Born in Providence, a son of Shirley (Schuster) Arbor and the late Gerald Arbor, he was a lifelong resident of Rhode Island.

He was a graduate of the University of Rhode Island and the owner of Supply Depot Inc. for 31 years.

Besides his mother, he is survived by his children; Ashley Arbor and Austin Arbor, and his companion; Robin Rittenberg. He was the brother of the late Neil Arbor.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 931 Jefferson Blvd., Suite 3004, Warwick, R.I. 02906.

Manny Asser, 100

NEW BEDFORD, MASS. – Manny Asser of New Bedford died Feb 21. He was born in New York's Lower East Side. Husband of Anita (Katz), son of the late Solomon and Julia (Epstein) Asser.

He served in WWII as a Private First Class, and was awarded the Purple Heart. Manny worked for many years in the garment industry. Later, he transitioned into QC inspection at Alberox Corp. He was an avid reader with a large book collection, and was an active bowler until age 90. He was known for his great wit and humor.

He is survived by his children Judith Brown and her husband Gary of Mattapoisett, Mass., Seth Asser and Felice Katz of Shrewsbury, Mass., and his grandchildren Matt and Adam Hanson. Manny was the brother of the late Millie, Mazza, Jessie, Abe, Edward and Murray Asser. Donations can be made to Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue, 280 Broome St., New York, N.Y. 10002, Attn: Marcia Ikonomopoulos.

Helen Babin, 94

FALL RIVER, MASS. – Helen Babin passed away Feb. 18. She was the wife of the late Rabbi Moshe Babin. She was born in New York, N.Y., the daughter of the late Murray and Lillian (Plottel) Klein.

Helen graduated from Hunter College in New York, N.Y., in 1941. She was a teacher in the Fall River Public Schools and later was the executive director of the Fall River United Jewish Appeal.

She is survived by her daughters Nehama Babin, Dena Levine and her husband Stuart, and Miriam Babin; grandchildren Abigail, Rebecca and Nathaniel Levine, Daniel Rosenthal and his wife Elizabeth Shaw, and Sarah Rosenthal and her fiancé Erik Laby; and great-granddaughter Emma Rosenthal-Shaw.

Contributions in her memory may be made to The Jewish Theological Seminary Development Office, Box 62, 3080 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10027 or www.jtsa.edu.

Frances Reeva Hecker, 88

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Frances R. Hecker died Feb. 22 at Philip Hulitar Inpatient Center. She was the beloved wife of Norman Hecker. They were married for 68 years. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Max and Bessie (Goldman) Senders, she had lived in Cranston since 1974, previously living in Providence. She was a manager at the former Grayson Clothing in Garden City and previously a salesperson at the former Shepard's Department Store in Providence. Frances was a member of B'nai Brith and former member of Temple Am David. Devoted mother of Michael Hecker and his wife Martha of Paia, Hawaii, and Barbara Hecker of Cranston. Dear sister of Gloria Breit and her husband Erwin of Park Ridge, N.J., and the late Sandra Senders Rosenstein. Loving grandmother of Matthew and his fiancé Yui, Miles, and Lauren. Cherished aunt of Susan Rosenstein Esser, Lynne Albright, and Neal Breit, M.D. Contributions in her memory may be made to Home and Hospice Care of R.I., 1085 North Main St., Providence, R.I. 02904.



Annette Myerson, 86

BARRINGTON, R.I. – Annette (Robinson) Myerson, a resident of Barrington for more than 50 years, died Feb. 27 at home with her son by her side after an extended illness. She was the beloved wife of the late Albert Myerson for 48 years. Born in Providence, she was the devoted daughter of the late Joseph and Lena (Parness) Robinson and the sister of the late Gerald Robinson.

She was an honors graduate of Hope High School and a former member of Temple Am David. She worked as a medical secretary prior to her marriage and was a devoted homemaker cherished by her family.

She is survived by her beloved son, Steven B. Myerson of Barrington. Contributions in her memory to Home & Hospice Care of R.I. would be appreciated.

Max Rose, 95

WARWICK, R.I. – Max Rose died Feb. 24. He was the husband of the late Lenka (Kopolowitz) Rose.

Born in Providence, a son of the late George and Fannie (Foxman) Rose, he was a longtime resident of Rhode Island before moving to Pembroke Pines, Fla.

He was the owner of the former Bugs Bunny Ice Cream and the owner of a downtown Providence parking establishment. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII, serving in the South Pacific. He was a former member of Temple Emanu-El.

He is survived by his son Harold Rose and his wife Eileen of North Attleboro, Mass.; and his grandchildren Gregory and Mitchell and his wife Zaida.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, 401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, R.I. 02906.

Barbara W. Saroian, 87

CRANSTON, R.I. – Barbara W. Saroian died peacefully on Feb. 22. Born in Providence to the late Samuel and Dr. Hattie Wolfe, she was a lifetime resident of Rhode Island. She was a graduate of Hope High School and attended Pembroke College. Barbara worked as a business manager for AT&T, retiring 30 years ago.

During her life, she was known for her style, warmth, generosity, wisdom, sense of humor and love for the New England Patriots. Football season was her favorite, and before

OBITUARIES | 30

OBITUARIES

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every game, she called her family to say "Go Pats". Barbara is survived by her daughter, Susan Feldman, and her husband, Stephen, of Villanova, Pa.; granddaughter, Gillian Higman, her husband, Daniel, and daughter, April, of Cape May, N.J.; and dear friend, Anthony Rourke, of Providence. She will be forever loved and missed.

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

Bernice S. Shapiro, 86

WARWICK, R.I. – Bernice S. Shapiro died Feb. 20, at Philip Hulitar Inpatient Center, Providence. She was the beloved wife of Henry Shapiro. They were married for 66 years.

Born in Norwich, Conn., a daughter of the late Sigmund and Rebecca (Kaufman) Dressler, she had lived in Warwick for 4 years, previously living in Cranston. Devoted mother of Howard Shapiro and his wife Janice of Cranston, Rhonda Fallk and her husband David of Clark Summit, Pa., and Kenneth Shapiro of Las Vegas, Nevada. Dear sister of Judith Karlin of Md. and the late Justin and Marshall Dressler. Loving grandmother of Derek, Stacy, Rebecca and Murray. Cherished great-grandmother of Londyn and River.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Hadassah, 17 Pocahontas Drive, Middletown, R.I. 02842.

Irene Stern, 86

FALL RIVER, MASS. – Irene (Levy) Stern died Feb. 25 surrounded by her family. She was the wife of the late Milton "Mickey" Stern.

Born in Fall River, she was the daughter of the late Alfred and Nettie (Lischner) Levy.

She was a graduate of Durfee High School, Class of 1947. She was an active member of both the Sisterhood of Adas Israel and Temple Beth El. She was a loving, caring person who put her close friends and family ahead of anything. She loved to cook and was an active participant in the lives of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her children, Jody Grogan and her husband Frank of Norton, Mass. and Wendy Millward and her partner Brian of Fall River, Mass.; her sister, Regina Cussell; her grandchildren, Andy and his wife Lindsay, Adam and Nathan; and her great-grandchildren, Devin, Zachary, and Hailey.

Contributions may be made to the Sisterhood of Temple Beth El, 385 High Street, Fall River, Mass. 02720.

Douglas Slocombe, British cinematographer, dies at 103

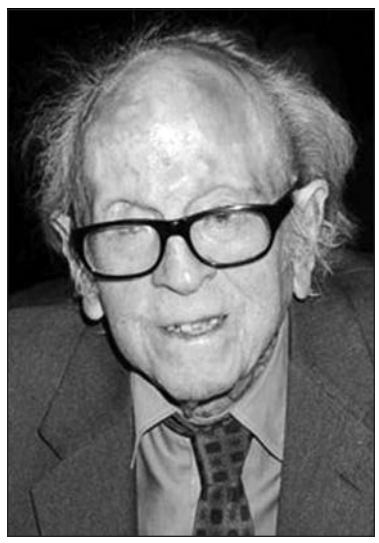
JTA – Douglas Slocombe, the acclaimed British cinematographer who filmed the Nazi invasion of Poland, has died at 103.

His daughter said his death Feb. 22 was due to complications related to a fall, according to The Associated Press.

Slocombe filmed the German army invading Poland in 1939, generally seen as precipitating World War II, at the start of his varied career, which he capped by lensing Steven Spielberg's "Indiana Jones" franchise.

In his 20s and working as a freelance photographer, Slocombe read a headline about the pending invasion and took a train to Poland, where he met up with documentary filmmaker Herbert Kline.

"I found myself right in the middle of an absolute hotbed of Nazi intrigue," Slocombe told the BBC. "All the Jewish shops had 'Jude' daubed over the windows and the Jews themselves were attacked. The Nazi Brownshirts marched up and down the streets in formation – as did the Hitler Youth, with little daggers in their socks."



Douglas Slocombe

Slocombe and Kline traveled around Poland by nighttime train. Once, Slocombe recalled, they crawled under the train with their camera equipment to avoid strafing by Nazi airplanes.

He never forgot filming a young girl being gunned down.

"She died within minutes," Slocombe later said. "I hated it. It was the first time I'd filmed anything like that. She was so young and pretty."

Kline used Slocombe's footage in his 1940 documentary about the outbreak of war, "Lights Out in Europe."

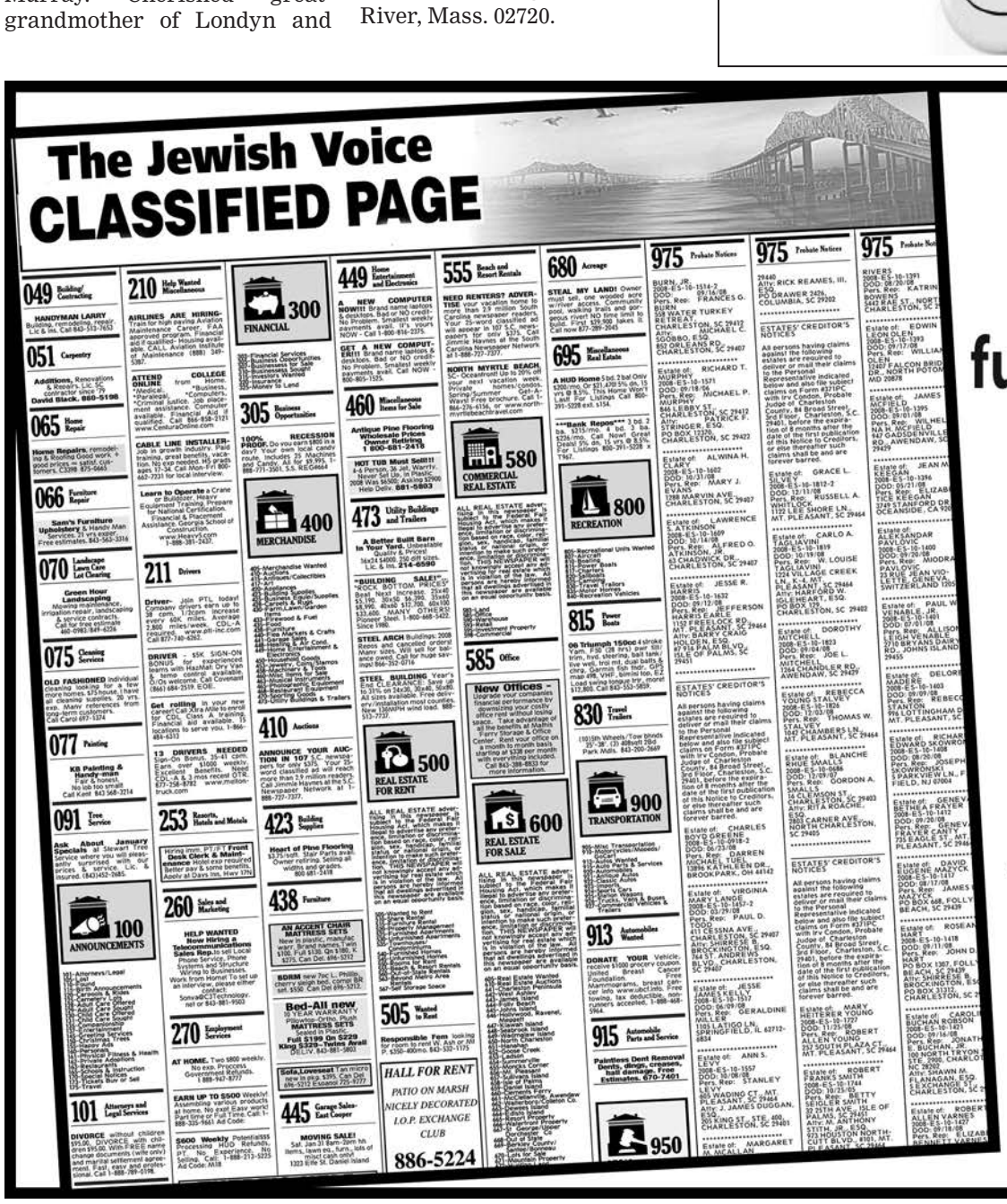
Slocombe, who was born in London and raised in Paris, shot some 80 films, starting with the Ealing black comedies of the late 1940s and early 1950s and ending with three "Indiana Jones" films for Spielberg.

"Dougie Slocombe was facile, enthusiastic and loved the action of filmmaking," Spielberg said, according to the Washington Post. "Harrison Ford was Indiana Jones in front of the camera, but with his whip-smart crew, Dougie was my behind-the-scenes hero for the first three Indy movies."

Slocombe was nominated for three Academy Awards and won three British Academy of Film and Television Arts Awards for "The Servant" (1963), "The Great Gatsby" (1974) and "Julia" (1977). The British Society of Cinematographers gave him a lifetime achievement award in 1995.



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REMEMBER THE PAST

From the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

Businessman was benefactor at 2 cemeteries

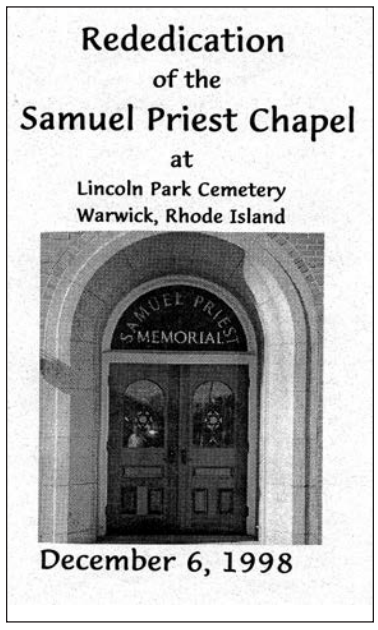
BY ANNE SHERMAN

Who was Samuel Priest and why is the chapel at Lincoln Park named for him when he is buried in the Temple Beth-El Cemetery?

Samuel Priest was born in Lithuania in 1869 and came to New York at age 11. Upon coming to Rhode Island, he established a cotton and remnant store in partnership with his brother. In 1897, he married Pearl Raphael and they had four daughters. In time, Priest became a successful businessman who owned Imperial Printing and Finishing Co. and Berry Spring Mineral Co., both in Pawtucket.

Pearl and Samuel Priest built a home at 232 Norwood Ave. in Cranston in 1905. It was a Greek Revival mansion decorated with stained glass windows, crystal chandeliers and striking antiques. It had three floors and 15 rooms, including a sitting room with a domed ceiling designed to provide excellent acoustics for their four musical daughters. In 1994, the house was sold and turned into a bed and breakfast, Edgewood Manor.

Priest was always interested and concerned with the welfare of his community. He served on the boards of the Jewish Orphanage, The Miriam Hospital and Temple Beth-El, and was one of the founders of the Hebrew Free Loan Association. From 1907-1912, he was president of Congregation Ahavath Sholom (the Howell Street shul). He was also a member of the Providence Lodge, Palestine Lodge, and Knight of Pythias, and on the board of directors of Ledgemont Country Club.



Priest died on Feb. 10, 1926, at age 57, and was buried in the Temple Beth-El Cemetery. Among those making tributes in his memory were Abram Resnick, executive director of the Jewish Community Center, J.E. Edelstein, president of Ledgemont Country Club, and the Temple Beth-El Board of Directors.



PHOTOS | RIJHA

Lincoln Park Cemetery with the chapel in the background.

In 1930, Priest's daughters wanted to honor their father and his contributions to the community by building a chapel in his memory. Because a chapel had already been built in Beth-El Cemetery by the Samuels family, they chose Lincoln Park.

The Priest family is one of several families that have a mausoleum at the Beth-El Cemetery. In addition, one of the gates surrounding that cemetery bears the name Samuel Priest.

Over the years, the Lincoln Park chapel fell into disrepair. In 1998, it was completely renovated, thanks to Priest's granddaughter, Sandra Rose. On Dec. 6, 1998, the chapel was rededicated. It is now being used again for funerals and memorial services, and Rose has stayed involved in its upkeep.

ANNE SHERMAN is the retired office manager of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association. To comment about this or any Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association article, email info@rijha.org.



High school students can explore modern Jewish lit this summer

AMHERST, MASS. – High school students can spend a week exploring the richness and diversity of modern Jewish literature at the 2016 Great Jewish Books Summer Program at the Yiddish Book Center here.

The competitive program, which is open to rising juniors and seniors, will offer two sessions in 2016: July 24-29 and July 31-Aug. 7. The deadline to apply for either session is April 1.

At Great Jewish Books, students read and discuss a wide range of modern Jewish literature – including fiction and nonfiction, poetry, and graphic novels, by writers including Isaac Bashevis Singer, Grace Paley, Sholem Aleichem, Anna Deveare Smith, and Etgar Keret – in seminar-style classes led by college professors. After class, the students participate in small discussion groups, meet contemporary writers, and take part in recreational activities under the supervision of resident advisers from the program. They also experience a taste of college life, living in a dorm at Hampshire College, adjacent to the Yiddish Book Center.

All students accepted to the program receive full scholarships covering the cost of tuition, room and board, books, and special events.

Now in its fifth year, Great Jewish Books has proven so popular that this summer the Yiddish Book Center will offer a second session to meet the demand.

The Yiddish Book Center is a nonprofit organization working to tell the whole Jewish story by rescuing, translating, and disseminating Yiddish books and presenting innovative educational programs that broaden understanding of modern Jewish identity. It is a recipient of the National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

For more information, visit yiddishbookcenter.org/educational-programs/great-jewish-books-summer-program.

Ruth Gruber: Writer, humanitarian, centenarian and friend

BY MEL YOKEN

My wife, Cindy, and I often sojourn in New York City, and every time we go there, we visit our dear, inimitable, self-effacing friend Ruth Gruber, who is now 104 1/2 years old.

Thanks to a lifetime of writing, photojournalism, teaching, humanitarian missions and a thoughtful vision, she has touched the lives of more people than she can possibly imagine. Our recent visit with Ruth was a memorable one indeed. Inside her commodious, elegant apartment overlooking Central Park, we sat with our beloved heroine, who looked absolutely beautiful. She wore a purple dress, purple socks, and a long, gold necklace, and her makeup made her face look smooth and healthy.

She retained an angelic smile – one which still radiates enthusiasm and vitality - for nearly three hours as we expatiated on many subjects. To wit: We reminisced about Virginia Woolf, since Ruth wrote her doctoral thesis on this illustrious English writer. At age 20, in 1931, Ruth became the youngest person in the world to earn her Ph.D., and was acclaimed as such at that time.

When we noted that she was probably the only person still alive who had actually met and interacted with Woolf, Ruth smiled and exulted: "She was such a lovely person and so attractive."

We spoke to Ruth about her wonderful and fulfilling life, bringing the children of Holocaust refugees from Italy to Oswego, New York, in 1944, and also how she brought children to Israel in 1947. She wrote a book, "Haven," which was later a movie, about the first experience, during which she worked as a special assistant for U.S. Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, who later made Ruth a general. It was in this important capacity that she went to Italy to bring 985 children to the U.S. on the transport ship Henry Gibbons. Ruth wrote "Exodus 47" about the latter experience, a veritable apogee in her eventful life and work. We also spoke about her early book, "They Came to Stay," which she wrote with Marjorie Margolies Mezinsky, Chelsea Clinton's mother-in-law.

Ruth's apartment is filled from ceiling to floor with books, many signed and inscribed personally to her, as she has always been a voracious reader. From a young age, she relished the classics, and Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women" was always one of her books of predilection.

Ruth's peripatetic nature took her to the Sorbonne, in Paris, to ameliorate her French. When she arrived in Germany in 1931, she was a foreign correspondent for the New York Herald Tribune. Hitler's troops were marching through the streets, and she happened to be in the crowd when Hitler addressed a Nazi rally in Cologne. She was, of course, horrified by this experience, which left an indelible mark in her mind.

Ruth was the first journalist to enter the Soviet Arctic, in 1935, and she traveled to Alaska as a member of Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration in 1942. She covered the Nuremberg trials in 1946, and has known and associated with such world leaders as Eleanor Roosevelt, David Ben Gurion and Harry Truman, to name just a few.

"Ruth was the first journalist to enter the Soviet Arctic in 1935, and she traveled to Alaska as a member of Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration in 1942."

We talked about all the aforementioned with Ruth, and about the film of her extraordinary life and work, "Ahead of Time," which had its debut at the Walter Reade Theater, in New York City, on Jan. 14, 2010. This remarkable, fascinating documentary was based on Ruth's book of the same title. We were there at the screening, and so proud of our longtime friend, who never allowed any obstacles to stop her from accomplishing her transformative goals.

Our friendship with Ruth began as correspondence some 33 years ago, shortly after the publication of "Haven." Over the years, we have hosted her a few times in this region, as she has been a guest speaker at Brown University and The Center of Jewish Culture at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Ruth Gruber's amazing experiences are limitless, and her prodigious efforts throughout her long and fruitful life demonstrate the potential that all of us share to bring about positive change and improve the lives of others.

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



Mel and Cindy Yoken with Ruth Gruber.





WE ARE READ IN ISRAEL – Amy Olson on the beach in Tel Aviv recently reading The Voice to David Ben Gurion.



Ian Scott Horowitz and Allison Gail Friedman

ENGAGED – Carol and Alan Friedman of West Warwick are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Allison Gail Friedman of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to Ian Scott Horowitz, also of Fort Lauderdale.

Allison, a graduate of University of South Florida with a BS in Business Management, is an Advertising Operations Manager at Cendyne/One in Boca Raton, Florida.

Allison is the granddaughter of Phyllis Goldberg and the late Dr. Norman Goldberg of West Palm Beach, Florida, and Murray Friedman and the late Shirley Friedman of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

Ian received a degree in Economics and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida, and an L.L.M. in Taxation from Georgetown University. He is an Associate Tax Attorney at the law offices of Josh N Bennett, Esq. Pa in Fort Lauderdale.

He is the son of Bonnie and Craig Horowitz of Parkland, Florida, and the grandson of Phyllis Felsenfeld of Tamarac, Florida and Ted Horowitz and Rosalie Almborg of Delray Beach, Florida.

Allison and Ian are planning an April 2017 wedding.

Schoenberg's book in second edition

Bob Schoenberg, professor of critical thinking at the University of Massachusetts at Boston, has recently published the second edition of his book, "Critical Thinking in Business," by Science and Humanities Press. The book is available on Amazon in either Kindle or hard copy format. The new edition includes enhanced chapters with practice exercises at the end of each chapter. There is an answer key in the Appendix and an entirely new chapter on "Critical Thinking and Social Media." Schoenberg lives in Cranston.





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Clal appoints Rabbi Elan Babchuck as Director of Innovation

New York - Clal, the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, has named Rabbi Elan Babchuck to the new role of Director of Innovation, beginning in July 2016. Babchuck brings a wealth of experience in the intersection between innovation and spirituality, including entrepreneurial roles beginning at age 18 and continuing since.



Rabbi Elan Babchuck

"From its beginnings more than four decades ago, Clal has been a leader in innovating Judaism, offering new models of leadership, and making Jewish wisdom accessible and usable to help anyone anywhere flourish," said Clal co-President Rabbi Irwin Kula. "Elan, with his history of entrepreneurship, experience in the for-profit business world and track record of new initiatives at Temple Emanu-El in Providence and co-founding projects like (401)j, Leaders Without Borders, and Thrive: The Center for Mindfulness and Wellbeing, is the ideal person to build out our innovation incubator."

The incubator will launch in the fall of 2016, under Babchuck's direction, and will focus on nurturing disruptive innovations that help to advance Clal's mission, making Jewish a public good.

"Successful incubation demands a combination of openness to opportunity, excitement about new ideas, fearlessness about the future and genuine discipline regarding the wise use of available resources – material, intellectual or otherwise," said Clal co-President Rabbi Brad Hirschfield. "Those are the values which animate Clal, the mission of making Jewish a public good, and Elan himself. It's what drew him to us, and us to him."

Babchuck joins Clal, having studied with its faculty while in rabbinical school and having participated in the organization's prestigious national fellowship, Rabbis Without Borders, in 2013-2014.

"The Rabbis Without Borders fellowship was an incredibly rich experience that opened my eyes to new ways to engage with Jewish wisdom, and radically fresh ways to translate that wisdom into practice. I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to provide that lens for others, and support a new cohort of rabbinic 'translators' in their innovative endeavors, as well," said Rabbi Babchuck.

Rabbi Babchuck will work out of an office in Providence and travel to NYC and other innovation project sites around the country, as well. "While Clal is based in New York, our reach is national and even international," said Kula and Hirschfield, "so we're quite excited to have Rabbi Babchuck based in Providence, itself a center of many exciting social entrepreneurship initiatives, and from where he can build on his proven track record of successful innovation."

Sara Masri named philanthropy officer at Butler

Care New England Health System (CNE) and Butler Hospital are pleased to announce the appointment of Sara Masri as a philanthropy officer for major gifts.

With a primary focus on Rhode Island's only free-standing psychiatric hospital, Butler Hospital, Masri will raise funds in support of patient care services, research and teaching initiatives.

Previously the director of development at the Trudeau Center, and assistant director of development at Meeting Street, Masri brings a combined 18 years of experience in philanthropy to her new role. Masri and her family reside in Providence.



Sara Masri





MAZAL TOV – Seventeen members of the Sock family recently traveled to Israel to celebrate the bar mitzvah of Reese Sock which was held in the beautiful Abuhav Synagogue in Tzfat on Feb. 15. The Rhode Islanders pictured are Sharon, Garrett, Reese and Cooper Sock; Jeff Sock, Dennis and Samantha Morrell; Micki and Bob Silverman; May-Ronny Zeidman. Also seen here are family members Joyce, Alan, Landon and Laura Sock, Samara Smestad, Elaine Gross and their "incredible" Israeli guide Yuval Zelinkovsky.

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6:30 PM

MEGILLAH Reading
6:45 PM

Followed by the
PURIM Spiel



PHOTOS | JEWISH ALLIANCE

Living with autism

An overflow crowd of 100 people, top, attended the "Autism Today" program Feb. 28 at the Dwares JCC.

Chairs were set up in the lobby to accommodate the attendees who came to hear Drs. Barry Prizant and Stephen Shore discuss living with autism.

Pictured with Prizant and Shore, above, is Elaine Hall who is working on a new project with Prizant.

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