the JEWISH VOICE

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GRADUATION

Faith communities join in fundraising efforts for Station Fire Memorial

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

The faith community in Rhode Island has come together to support the construction of a memorial to the victims of the Station nightclub fire in West Warwick, and the Jewish community is no exception.

On Feb. 20, 2003, 100 people lost their lives when West Warwick's Station nightclub burned down. In 2012, the Station Fire Memorial Foundation acquired the site of the nightclub to build a memorial. It plans to complete the Station Fire Memorial Park in the fall. Dan Barry, the campaign director for the fundraising effort, described the tragedy as Rhode Island's 9/11; everyone knew where they were when they heard about it.

"This is the first time we've got the religious communities working together for a fundraising cause like this," Barry said in a phone interview. "When something as horrific as this happens, everybody helps each other."



Rabbi Richard Perlman of

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Newporters delighted with Touro decision

BY AARON GINSBURG

Newporters were very excited to learn of U.S. District Court Judge Jack McConnell's decision giving Congregation Jeshuat Israel, of Newport, control of Touro Synagogue. The decision begins:

"Bricks and mortar of a temple, and silver and gold of religious ornaments, may appear to be at the center of the dispute between the two parties in this case, but such a conclusion would be myopic. The central issue here is the legacy of some of the earliest Jewish settlers in North America, who desired to make Newport a permanent haven for public Jewish worship. Fidelity to their purpose guides the Court in resolving the matters now before it."



FILE PHOTO | JEWISH VOICE

Touro Synagogue in Newport

As a Newport native, I was excited to learn about the historic decision, and I was far from alone. Michael Davis, whose mother, Eleanor, lives in Newport, observed:

"Jewish history is replete with stories of right over might, of small, committed believers triumphing over seemingly overpowering foes. The result? A life-giving victory for the keepers of the flame in Newport, a chance at security and stability. *Kein yehi ratzon*. May it ever be so."

Phyllis (Chicky) Friedman recalled a time when things were different with Shearith Israel:

"... For years, the people from New York came down for the

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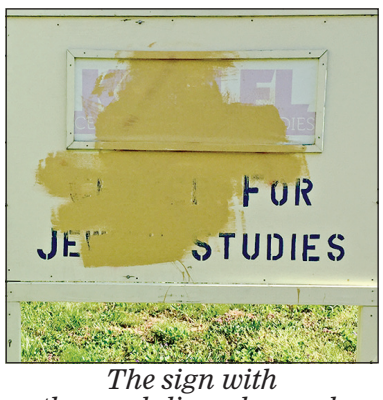
Acts of kindness after the hate

BY JEWISH VOICE STAFF

The Rhode Island Jewish community is coming together as a result of what has been termed a hate crime that occurred the weekend of May 21 at Congregation Ohawe Sholam in Pawtucket.

A call has gone out for community members to attend the Friday (May 27) minyan at 6:30 p.m. to show support for the

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The sign with the vandalism obscured.



PHOTO | AARON GINSBURG

Inside Touro Synagogue.

Judge rules Touro Synagogue belongs to current worshipers

JTA — A federal judge on May 16 granted control of the country's oldest synagogue to the Rhode Island congregation that worships there and not the building's New York-based founding organization.

In a ruling in Providence, U.S. District Judge Jack McConnell gave Congregation Jeshuat Israel, in Newport, control over the 250-year-old Touro Synagogue — and permission to sell items within it — despite objections from New York's Shearith Israel, The Associated Press reported.

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THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE

"Acceptance and peace are core principles of what it means to be American."

A new model for Beth-El's religious school

BY FRAN OSTENDORF
fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org

In an effort to take an already successful religious school to the next level, a team at Temple Beth-El is dreaming big.

In 2015, a campaign was started to honor retiring Rabbi Leslie Yale Gutterman by endowing the religious school. Now they've raised $3.2 million for the Rabbi Leslie Yale Gutterman Religious School – and changes are coming to the education of Temple Beth-El's children.

For the 2016-2017 school year, the religious school leadership of Rabbi Sarah Mack, Joie Magnone, youth and family engagement coordinator, and Rachel Mersky Woda, educational consultant, have come up with phase one of a plan that responds to the challenges of the modern family.

Their aim is a school that is a communal, accessible, joyful community.

In surveys of school parents, they found that the chief problem parents had with the school was logistical. Like many religious schools, Beth-El's school has been organized on a traditional model: Sunday school, with different grades attending at different times, and a midweek Hebrew school. Working parents were often shuttling back and forth for much of the day Sunday and fighting traffic midweek – and students were sometimes too tired to learn.



Outside Temple Beth-El's building in Providence.

"Educating 21st-century children required a change to logistics," said Mersky Woda.

In the new plan, PreK to grade 10 will attend a 2½-hour Sunday program. One-hour Hebrew classes will be organized in small groups, with a choice of times, including midweek and Sunday.

Sunday will start with the whole school meeting for 30 minutes of *tefilah*, which parents are invited to attend. "We are building community through worship, song and more," said Mersky Woda.

Mack added, "Parents value family time. We have to create the best use of time."

After *tefilah*, the students will split into grade-specific classes.

The whole school will be encouraged to attend monthly Shabbat dinners, and family programs and holiday celebrations will now be a part of the school day.

"This is Jewish learning in real time," says Mack. "When kids see their parents doing Jewishly, they will want to do Jewishly."

Hebrew will be taught once a week in small groups of three to seven on a flexible schedule. The groups will allow for individual attention and instruction according to skill level.

Mack, Mersky Woda and Magnone all commented on how the children at Beth-El frequently continue at the religious school even beyond B'nai Mitzvah age, a time when many leave formal Jewish education. They all want to capitalize on that.

This plan is the result of a task force of temple members with varied backgrounds.

"A fantastic group," Mack said.

Anita Steiman, a beloved educator at the school for more than 25 years, who is retiring at the end of the year, is part of the task force.

The group will begin meeting again in late summer with the goal of creating a five-year strategic plan.

Ultimately, Magnone said, "We want kids to walk out of here with a love of Judaism."

FRAN OSTENDORF is the editor of The Jewish Voice.



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



Jewish Alliance
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Yom ha-Zikaron observance includes remarks by Israeli soldier/educator

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

On May 10, approximately 75 people gathered in the courtyard outside the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Resource Center at the Dwares JCC in Providence to observe *Yom ha-Zikaron* (Day of Remembrance for the Fallen Soldiers of Israel and Victims of Terrorism).

A ceremony was led in Hebrew and English by Gilor Meshulam, Israeli emissary (*shaliach*) for the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, and Johanna Fleisher, vice president of (401)j. The keynote speaker for the evening was Maj. Amichai Chikli, president and founder of the Tavor Pre-Military Academy,

During his speech, Chikli told a story of bravery – the bravery of a friend who sacrificed himself for the safety of his squad during the war that resulted from the kidnapping of three Israelis along the Lebanese border. He noted that after this war, a governmental committee was commissioned to determine what could be learned from the war. It determined that the collectivist attitude that upheld the army was fading. Ultimately, Chikli said, the biggest threat to Zionism is not physical, but ideological.

"In this era of assimilation and loss of identity, the idea of the Jewish state is under fierce attack," he said. "We of the Jewish nation do not have the luxury to stand on the sideline."

Other speakers included Rabbi Barry Dolinger, of Temple Beth Sholom; Adam Tilove, head of the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island; and Ben Gladstone of Brown Students for Israel. Bentsion Taube, Ronni Bentsion, and Mike Fink, professor at RISD, recited prayers.

A question-and-answer session followed Chikli's speech and a blessing of the IDF soldiers.

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



PHOTOS | ARIEL BROTHMAN



Above, Israel shaliach Gilor Meshulam and Johanna Fleisher, vice president of (401)j, lead the Yom ha-Zikaron ceremony.

Left, keynote speaker Major Amichai Chikli speaks on Yom ha-Zikaron.

Below, the audience at the Yom ha-Zikaron ceremony.



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My Fitness Journey: Join me on the open highway

Last in a series



KARA MARZIALI

Since embarking on this journey, I have come to realize that there is no "last stop." While I initially had no particular destination, I have enjoyed the sights along the way, and I want to continue my travels.

I had set goals and hoped to achieve certain conditions, but the real markers were a new-found joy and sense of well-being. This profound and unexpected change occurred gradually, and it seemed almost too good to be true, as if it had been scripted as a happy ending to this written column.

Without sounding too *schmaltzy*, I must acknowledge that I could not have done this without the reassurance, support and commitment from Eddie Fleury. I am grateful to Lisa Mongeau and Fran Ostendorf for dreaming up this idea and having faith that I would actually last eight weeks. I also want to thank the J-Fitness and BodySoul staff, my Alliance colleagues, Dwares JCC members and readers like you who encouraged me. Every "keep up the good work" or "way to go" ignited my desire to carry on.

While my "Fitness Journey" articles were often filled with familiar platitudes (and maybe some proselytizing), here is one I haven't yet shared: Wellness, good health, exercise, aging, courage and acceptance are not mutually exclusive. They are truly in accord with one another. So get motivated and get moving. I look forward to seeing some of you trudge this road with me.

Here's to feeling healthy, staying fit and loving life!

KARA MARZIALI is the communications director of the Jewish Alliance.



Another added benefit of joining a community gym is the camaraderie. Seeing the same "fitness friends" each day motivated me. Here's to our good health.

Kara's top 5 Fitness Journey tips

1 Check with your doctor. Obviously. Though I doubt he or she will discourage you, ask your physician for medical clearance before you start to exercise, especially if you have an existing health condition or you've been inactive for a long time.

2 Evaluate and accept where you are fitness-wise today. Once your doc gives you the thumbs up, have a personal trainer assess your current fitness level. Even if you don't plan on working with a personal trainer on an ongoing basis, he or she can help you get started and set some goals. I have truly come to value working with a personal trainer. It may sound like a luxury, but it is one of the best gifts you can give to yourself.

3 Make a plan. What do you want to achieve? Do you want to lose 20 pounds? Do you want to lower your blood pressure or get off your diabetes medication? Do you want to run a 10K? Do you want to bench press 100 pounds? Do you want to get on the floor with your grandchildren and be able to get back up? I found that setting goals (and having the freedom to adjust them along the way) was critical. As I discovered, a fitness program should be based more on goals and fitness level than on age.

4 Start slowly. Learn to walk before you run. Or better yet, start at a crawl. What you think you can tackle may not be in your best interest. Don't push yourself too hard, too fast and then get burnt out, overwhelmed – or worse – injured. As Eddie has taught me, it's far better to gradually increase your existing fitness level; then you can appreciate the progress. Long before I started this fitness journey, I knew I needed to exercise more since my desk job tends to keep me sedentary. But I certainly wasn't ready to commit to working out for an hour every day. I was, however, willing to walk. So each day, I sought out little ways to put more movement in my life. I started by sending documents to a printer farther away from my desk so I'd have to take extra steps to retrieve the papers. Then I'd park in the farthest parking spot at the mall or market. Eventually I got the courage to go the Dwares JCC and walk on the treadmill. Now look at me…I'm unstoppable!

5 Enjoy yourself. If it's not fun, don't do it! A fitness program has to be enjoyable if it's going to become a regular part of your life. I have but one prerequisite when it comes to exercise: it cannot (and should not) feel like a chore. Do what you like to do. If the thought of walking bores you, don't do it. That's setting yourself up to fail. Try something new, and challenge yourself. Do not put limits on yourself just because you're over a certain age. I know a woman in her 70s who roller skates competitively. (No kidding!) You may choose to put on some music in your house and start dancing as if no one is watching, go bowling, play catch with a child or join a gym – whatever feels gratifying to you. The point is not so much what you do as the fact that you do it!



Getting fit is a journey. Start slowly, but start. You'll be glad you did!

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Brown RISD Hillel students create exhibit based on volunteer project in Ethiopia

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN



Participants pose for a group shot while at the worksite in Ethiopia.



Project participants at work in Ethiopia.



Trip participant Melissa Hill and Brown RISD Hillel's Director of Engagement Alisa Kotler-Berkowitz, one of two trip supervisors



PHOTOS | BROWN RISD HILLEL

Brown RISD Hillel hosts a visual exhibit of a recent spring-break trip to Ethiopia taken by students.

PROVIDENCE – A group of students from Brown RISD Hillel has created an exhibit based on their recent spring break trip to Ethiopia, where they worked with community members to restore a Jewish cemetery.

The trip was organized and supervised by Alisa Kotler-Berkowitz, Hillel's director of engagement, and Elan Cohen, Hillel's Israel engagement fellow. They both credit Rebecca Forman, Hillel's engagement intern and the student coordinator of the trip, with bringing the two of them together to make the trip a reality.

According to Forman, the students wanted their volunteer project to benefit the community and not disturb local life.

"A lot of thought went into how to make this sustainable. We chose the Jewish cemetery because we weren't coming in, then affecting children, then leaving or something," said Forman. "Local people were directing us. We knew there was a need for it and that they would continue to keep it up after we were gone."

Forman also noted that the Ethiopian community plans to create a network between the nation's Jewish cemeteries in hopes that it could be a tourism draw.

During the trip, the nine students and two group leaders removed overgrown vegetation in the cemetery in the town of Azezu; they also constructed a perimeter wall.

The exhibit, featuring pictures and text telling of the students' experiences, opened on May 6 in a hallway near the entrance of the Brown RISD Hillel. Curated by the students, the exhibit also includes three tapestries made by trip participant and RISD student Sophia Spitulnik. One tapestry depicts the history of Ethiopian Judaism, another the inside of an Ethiopian synagogue, and the third the Ethiopians' hopes to see the Western Wall.

Also in the exhibit are transcriptions of interviews that Brown students Sam Rubinstein and Jacyln Licht conducted with some of the Ethiopian Jews, along with their pictures.

"There were a lot of recurring stories about passion to get to Israel and Judaism," said Licht. "That was very enlightening, but as we asked more questions about family backgrounds, you learned surprising things about what families have gone through in the process of trying to get to Israel."

"They were very actively asking for our help," explained Rubinstein. "We came home all indignant and ready to go with the advocacy." He then noted that two weeks after the group returned to Rhode Island, the Israeli government made an announcement that Israel planned to welcome 1,300 Ethiopian Jews this year.

"We wanted to actually represent them and … get their words out," he said. "We just want people to know that they're there."

The exhibit also features text that tells the history of Judaism in Ethiopia, as well as some of the political aspects of Ethiopian Judaism.

Ethiopian Judaism is unique in that it was monastic between the 15th and 18th or 19th centuries and was not officially recognized as Judaism until the 1970s.

The idea that Ethiopian Jews – the Beta Israel, as the Ethiopian Jewish community calls itself – could not make *aliyah* until recently left an impression on several students, including Dani Satlow and Melissa Hill, who both attend Brown.

"A lot of the questions I had were dealing with who [is considered] a Jew. According to *halakhah*, it's that your mother is Jewish. It was eye-opening to see where people couldn't make *aliyah* because they weren't considered Jewish," said Satlow. In Ethiopia, Satlow said he witnessed a zealous congregation with congregants eager to be observant Jews. He found it hard to process that the Jewish status of those congregants could be called into question while many people who are not at all religious are free to make *aliyah*.

"It was a conundrum," he said.

Hill said, "Israel had been going back and forth about whether to recognize them as Jews and that they are more observant than I've ever been."

Other students recounted less political experiences. Brown student Jonathan Yakubov recalled dancing in a nightclub, and says he was struck by the friendliness of the Ethiopians.

"On the other side of the world, they still see the positive in life," he reflected. "We were foreigners, and they were so friendly to come up to us and welcome us to dance. It was really nice."

Cohen and Kotler-Berkowitz were thrilled with the curiosity and positive attitude that the students showed on the trip.

"Since we've come back … people feel so connected. We shared something that we haven't shared with anyone else," Kotler-Berkowitz remarked. "[Everyone had] such an incredible attitude and such presence."

Cohen, who has supervised a number of similar trips, said, "It's always really cool to see people discover new things, and it's especially easy with the Brown and RISD students, who are especially inquisitive.

"We all shape each other's experiences, and that's a really powerful thing."

The exhibit, at Brown RISD Hillel, 80 Brown St., in Providence, is open to the public through the end of May.

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

Community can say farewell to *shaliach*

The community is invited to join in a farewell celebration in honor of Gilor Meshulam, the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's *shaliach* (Israeli emissary), who will return to Israel this summer. The program will take place June 2, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the Board Room at the Dwares JCC.



Gilor Meshulam

After several years in the Israeli Defense Forces, where he earned the rank of captain, Meshulam joined the Providence community as the *shaliach*, assigned by the Jewish Agency for Israel. He has taught in most of the schools of the Jewish community and also presented programs at many synagogues and community organizations. He also worked at Camp JORI and the Dwares JCC and conducted regular programs for the Hillels of Brown University and URI, and he was an active member of (401)j. Meshulam recently began a Zionist reading group that meets monthly to discuss classic Zionist works and how they relate to today's issues.

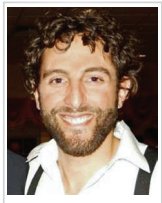
A native of Herzliyah, Meshulam will reside in Jerusalem, where he will be a student at Hebrew University in the prestigious Revivim program, working toward a master's degree. This program prepares a select group to teach Judaic studies in Israeli high schools.

He will be joined in Israel eventually by Rachel Shmookler, originally of Buffalo, to whom he recently became engaged. She has been working at Asa, a GIS (geographic information systems) company in South County Commons.

Anyone who plans to attend the farewell celebration should contact Jana Brenman, at Jbrenman@Jewishallianceri.org. Due to the Dwares JCC renovations, use the entrance at 130 Sessions St. to reach the Board Room for this program.



Lag B'Omer and the Great Mystery



RABBI AARON PHILMUS

I wish more people knew about *Lag B'Omer* here in the exile. In Israel, more than 150,000 people camp out on Mount Meron for an all-night *Lag B'Omer* party called a "*hillula*." As you wind your way up the mountain there are bonfires in every direction. Glass bottles of oil are hurled into the fires for an explosive effect.

At any moment you can get swallowed up by a group of Hasidim singing, dancing and jumping up and down. The heart of the celebration is a massive bonfire on top of the grave of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, the great second century sage and miracle-man who is credited with writing the Zohar.

The Zohar teaches that when Rabbi Shimon chose to leave this world, he invited his closest students into his home and revealed to them the deepest secrets of the universe. It is said that his house was so bright with the fire of Torah that no one standing outside could even get close.

That night, Rabbi Shimon instructed his disciples to celebrate his *yahrtzeit* (anniversery of death) on the 18th of Iyar as a "day of joy." Instead of sitting at home alone with a candle in the dark, on *Lag B'Omer* one should go outside to light a bonfire, to sing, dance and eat with friends. Why celebrate the day of his death? It is taught that when a person dies, all of his deeds, teachings, and life's work achieve a culminating perfection in such a way that they can have an even greater impact on our lives. When someone really close to us dies, it feels weird to think about him and picture him in our minds because … Where is he now? His essence is no longer confined to a body so somehow it feels like he is both everywhere and nowhere at the same time. This is the great mystery of God, life and death.

On *Lag B'Omer*, we celebrate the Jewish mystical teachings of Kabbalah that were revealed to Rabbi Shimon and secretly handed down for thousands of years. Now, these teachings are more available for study than ever before. You don't have to camp out on a mountain in Israel to celebrate *Lag B'Omer*. If you are mystically inclined (or just like making s'mores), don't get stuck inside with a candle in the dark. One starry spring night, go outside to sing and laugh with friends around a campfire. Watch with wonder as sparks rise up to meet the stars, and voices rise up to meet the Great Mystery.

Happy *Lag B'Omer*!

AARON PHILMUS is the rabbi of Temple Torat Yisrael in East Greenwich.

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Candle Lighting Times

Greater Rhode Island

May 27	**7:50**
June 3	**7:56**
June 10	**8:00**
June 11 Eve. 1st day of Shavu'ot light candles after	**9:12**
June 12 Eve. 2nd day of Shavu'ot light candles after	**9:13**
June 13 Holiday ends	**9:13**



Temple Beth-El holds its 161st annual meeting

BY GEORGE M. GOODWIN

PROVIDENCE – Attending annual meetings is often a chore (or a bore), but Beth-El's, held on May 18, was refreshing. So many congregational leaders expressed heartfelt thanks for all that has been joyously and impressively accomplished. And I, a committee chair, had nothing to do with the evening's success!

Through her warm and gracious manner, Jill Tobak, Beth-El's outgoing president, helped us scale new heights. These included, for example, the festivities surrounding the retirement of our beloved senior rabbi, Leslie Y. Gutterman, the wide search for his successor, and the wonderful welcome extended to Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman and his family. Of course later in the evening, Rabbi Howard expressed his own sense of gratitude and delight for his embrace by congregants and colleagues alike.

The printed version of the 161st annual report was embellished with colorful photos of worship, learning, mitzvot and fun. But a fast-paced video documentary, created by Judy Moseley, Temple administrator, captured numerous dramatic, touching and silly moments.

Dean Weinberg, Beth-El's treasurer, reported on the ninth consecutive year of balanced budgets. Stuart Feldman, vice president for fundraising and community relations, extolled the remarkable progress made in the campaign to endow the Gutterman Religious School. Incoming president Rob Stolzman, both buoyant and somber, encouraged congregants to build deeper and stronger bonds of fellowship by recruiting new members.

Among others, Ellis Waldman, vice president of planning and development, praised Anita Steiman, a beloved educator, as she prepares for retirement. After 14 years as a teacher and 25 years as the religious school's administrator, she was encouraged to enjoy some leisurely Sunday mornings. Anita, in turn, expressed her profound appreciation for countless opportunities to nurture children, young adults and faculty.

Yes, annual meetings are replete with plaques, pieties and proclamations, but Beth-El's seemed special. After 161 years, it is still a youthful, vibrant, and hopeful congregation.

GEORGE GOODWIN, a member of Temple Beth-El and chair of the library committee, has edited the R.I. Jewish Historical Notes for 13 years.

PHDS's awards dinner on June 5

BY RUCHAMA SZENDRO

The Providence Hebrew Day School's annual awards dinner will be held on Sunday, June 5, at the school.

Rabbi Yechezkel Yudkowsky and his wife, Shiffy Yudkowsky, are the recipients of this year's Amudim Award, for their outstanding support of Jewish education and the Providence Jewish community.

Rabbi Yudkowsky moved to Providence from Baltimore, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Talmudic Law at Ner Israel. For several years, he served as a mentor and adviser in the study hall at the New England Rabbinical College, in Providence. In his current teaching position at PHDS, he uses his creative talents to achieve two goals: instill in each student a love of Torah study and develop the students' taste for *mitzvot*.

Shiffy Yudkowsky grew up in Providence and attended PHDS and the New England Academy of Torah (NEAT). After earning teacher's certificates from Beth Jacob of Jerusalem and from the State of Israel, she returned to Providence and began her teaching career at Touro Synagogue Hebrew School. She has now been teaching fifth grade at PHDS for 20 years. Mrs. Yudkowsky cultivates success in each student on multiple fronts: character development, organizational skills and academic achievement.

Beyond the walls of PHDS, Rabbi Yudkowsky serves as rabbi of Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh, in Providence. He is also the local rabbinic supervisor of the Providence *eruv* and a member of the Rhode Island *chevra kadisha* (ritual burial society). Shiffy Yudkowsky is co-president of N'shei Chesed and a vice president of the *Mikveh* Ladies Association of Rhode Island. She also directs the annual PHDS Hanukkah choir.

The couple's accomplishments in the classroom and selfless dedication to family and community make them worthy recipients of the Amudim Award.

The Parents of the Year Award for 2016 will be presented to Menachem and Libby Leibowitz, of Passaic, New Jersey. They have a longstanding relationship with Providence and NEAT. Over the years, four of the Leibowitzes' daughters have attended NEAT.

The Leibowitzes have expressed their gratitude to the school, the teachers, the boarding families and the Providence community. They attribute the success of their daughters to NEAT faculty members, who nurture every student, and to the families in the community with whom their daughters have developed close ties.

Russell Rosen, of Baltimore, will receive this year's Alumnus Award. Rosen grew up in Providence, where his father practiced medicine and his mother was a beloved teacher at PHDS. He continued his religious studies at Ner Israel and the Mir Yeshiva in Jerusalem. He earned a bachelor's degree at Towson University and an MBA at Johns Hopkins University.

After six years at T. Rowe Price, Rosen has moved on to become chief operating officer at USADWEB.

Rosen actively supports several community organizations and has assumed a leadership role in his local synagogue. He and his wife, Beily, have built a home centered on Torah values and Torah study. All the Rosen children attend Jewish day schools, continuing the legacy of Jewish education that Russell received at PHDS.

The annual awards dinner begins at 4:30 p.m. and is open to the public. Tickets are $65 and you must reserve by calling PHDS, 401-331-5327. To place an ad in the Journal, the school's yearbook, call the school. Two dinner tickets are included with the purchase of a full-page ad in the Journal.

RUCHAMA SZENDRO lives in Providence and is a member of the PHDS Amudim committee.

FROM PAGE 1

TOURO

reading of the George Washington letter, and they invited members of the congregation to come up to New York for different events. We had a good relationship. I hope we can get back to work and rebuild the friendship.

"I remember things … because [my late husband] Sam was so active when he was president of the congregation [Jeshuat Israel]. … I came to Newport as a bride of 20 in June 1949 and have been a member since then, and now am 88."

Friedman said of the judge's decision: "It was an expected conclusion."

Newporters Rita Slom, David Bazarsky and Saul and Bernice Schweber were elated by the ruling.

"I'm delighted," Slom said. "I was born here, as were my husband and children. My mother was eight years old when she came here and prayed in the synagogue the first time. This has been our synagogue for years and I'm glad we don't have to fight about it anymore."

Past president, current director and congregant David Bazarsky said, "We are thrilled that Touro Synagogue will be preserved for future generations of congregants and visitors. It's been a long three-year struggle and we're glad that at least this chapter has come to an end. We think the decision is important for Touro Synagogue and for America."

"We're delighted and very pleased! It turned out the way we wanted it," said Saul and Bernice Schweber, members for over 60 years.

Past president and board member Saul Woythaler remarked, "I'm very happy with the way the decision went … much better than we ever hoped and expected. I'm just hoping that this is the end of it and that we can go forward with our lives. I think that we all believed that this was the right judgment.

"We did absolutely the right thing …. Shearith Israel has been trying to tell us what to do and how we conduct ourselves here and I've always thought that we have no reason to be told, that we're our own entity. They don't own us. They did theoretically. We were renting the place from them. It was ridiculous. They just wanted to exert their power over us without having any real concern for the local community …."

Woythaler said it was the right time to decide the ownership issue once and for all.

"We had a very strong board in the last few years, with strong leadership, and we do not know … if we would continue to have strong leadership …," he said. "And it appears to be right because the judge has sided with us …."

AARON GINSBURG is a native of Newport. He can be reached at aaron.ginsburg@gmail.com

FROM PAGE 1

TOURO RULING

The decision is the latest development in a conflict that began in 2012, when Jeshuat Israel, a 120-family congregation that worships at Touro, arranged to sell a set of 18th-century bells adorning a Torah scroll for $7.4 million to Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. The proceeds were to establish an endowment to care for the Touro building and keep a rabbi in residence.

The Manhattan-based Shearith Israel, which is the oldest continuously operating American Jewish congregation and has served as the trustee of Touro for nearly 200 years, sued to stop the sale, claiming that Jeshuat Israel did not have the right to sell synagogue property. It also attempted to evict the congregation from the building.

On May 16, McConnell ruled that the Newport congregation is the owner of the bells and could choose what to do with them. The Boston museum revoked its offer amid the controversy.

The judge also removed Shearith Israel as a trustee, replacing it with the congregation because Jeshuat Israel has maintained the building and its grounds and kept it open for public worship.

"The central issue here is the legacy of some of the earliest Jewish settlers in North America, who desired to make Newport a permanent haven for public Jewish worship," McConnell wrote in the 106-page decision, according to the AP.

A national historic site, Touro Synagogue attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year, according to AP. In the early 19th century, when the size of Newport's Jewish community plummeted, Shearith Israel assumed responsibility for the building.

According to AP, Shearith Israel has not been actively involved with Touro in recent decades.

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Hillel incident could fuel more hate – or become a learning opportunity



EDITOR

FRAN OSTENDORF

The last few weeks have featured a number of important commemorations in the Jewish calendar. *Yom ha-Shoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day) was followed by *Yom ha-Zikaron* (Day of Remembrance for the Fallen Soldiers of Israel and Victims of Terrorism) and *Yom ha-Atzmaut* (Israeli Independence Day). These are important to the entire Jewish world, in Israel and in the diaspora.

In Rhode Island, commemorations and celebrations were planned throughout the state, in synagogues and community centers, at schools and universities. Brown University was no exception - an annual *Yom ha-Atzmaut* barbecue celebrating Israeli Independence Day was on the Brown RISD Hillel calendar, as usual.

So many in the community are asking how it is that a group of students at Brown was also scheduled to show films on May 11 – the eve of *Yom ha-Atzmaut* – on the Arab-Israeli War of 1948 from an Arab point of view. Called Jews and the *Nakba*, the loosely formed student group scheduled a time to show three films that portray the 1948 war as a catastrophe (*Nakba*) for Palestinians and offer narrative counter to a pro-Israel/pro-Zionist point of view.

If you haven't heard about this, and the controversy that's ensued, that's no surprise. We are a small Jewish community with a population concentrated in Providence. But we reach a wider area, including all of Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. So what seems to weigh heavily on the shoulders of one part of our community might not even brush the shoulders of another part.

This incident, which has garnered outraged calls and correspondence to The Voice from as far away as Israel, is important to us all for a number of reasons. It shows how strongly and passionately our community members hold their viewpoints. It shows how they value the newspaper in communicating that viewpoint. It reminds us that there are universities in our midst with vibrant student communities of open thinkers. And it demonstrates the power of the Internet in spreading information.

Much of the information that reached people came from a few writers and bloggers on the Internet. Information was repeated from website to website. The information dispersed became fact because it was repeated. Somebody tells somebody who tells somebody. Whether or not all the information is accurate, it takes on a life of its own. Years ago, that happened by word of mouth. On the web, that's called "going viral" and it can happen in a matter of hours.

I have heard and read a number of conflicting reports about how these films were allowed to be shown at a Hillel. You can find all the reports online; I'm not going to repeat and perpetuate them here.

Here is what we do know. The event was scheduled and then canceled after various groups withdrew their support. The building was then closed early because of security concerns. Apparently the students who were determined to show the movies did so before the building closed.

Brown RISD Hillel issued a statement May 19 about the incident. You can read it on page 10.

In a conversation the following day, Marshall Einhorn, executive director of Brown RISD Hillel, was asked to respond to accusations that he attended the showing of the movies.

"I arrived just before 7 to close the building," he said. "The students came and went before that. Like all other buildings on the Brown campus, except for the dorms, Hillel is open to everyone."

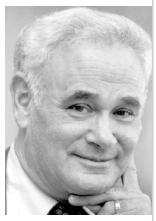
What is the takeaway from all this? Whether you agree with the subject matter or not, who can disagree with the fact that universities have always been and will always be places for exploration and communication? But lately, students with pro-Israel/pro-Zionist opinions are finding it more and more uncomfortable to speak out on campuses. More discussion on both sides would help each group better understand the issues and the others' viewpoint.

Many Jews were quick to condemn the university, Hillel, the students and others, often based on little first-hand knowledge of the events. Be wary of everything you read on the Internet.

Curiosity, openness and tolerance are part of our Jewish traditions and should be part of our community. Here at The Voice, we encourage discussion of a wide range of opinions on our pages. You'll find two op-eds on this Brown RISD Hillel incident on page 10 this week.

If you have a reaction, let us know. Let's use this as a moment to learn from each other.

My hope that we never forget 'The little boy'



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

Terezin, or Theresienstadt, was not a death camp like Auschwitz or Treblinka or Chelmno. As a matter of fact, the Nazis even permitted the Red Cross to visit it ... once.

During that one visit, prisoners – many of whom were accomplished musicians and artists – performed for their visitors and exhibited their artwork.

Terezin was not a death camp; the Nazis used it as a propaganda tool to show the world how well they treated "their Jews." The prisoners were willing to play along with their captors because the alternative was death.

The Red Cross failed to see the hunger and filth and disease and brutality just beneath the temporarily prettified surface of the ghetto/concentration camp. The Red Cross did not know that the vast majority of the residents of Terezin who did not die there were shipped off to Auschwitz or other hellholes for immediate death by gassing or for slow death by starvation and forced labor.

On an oppressively hot day in August 2001, I boarded a bus in Prague for a 36-mile journey to the northwest. An hour or so later, I stepped onto the baked earth of a Terezin that had been cleaned up and sanitized for tourists just like me.

I knew what had transpired there during World War II. Over and over again, I had read with aching heart the poems written by the children of Terezin, and I had seen the pictures that they had drawn – now collected in the well-known anthology "I Never Saw Another Butterfly," which took its title from a poem written by Pavel Friedman, who was murdered in Auschwitz at the age of 23.

Standing in the blazing sun, I asked myself: "What right have I to be here on this hallowed ground, a Jew who has been spared the horrors of the Holocaust, who in a couple of hours will retreat to the comfort of my air-conditioned hotel room?"

The 32nd Annual Rhode Island Interfaith Commemoration of the Holocaust, held on May 4 at Providence's Temple Emanu-El, focused on Terezin. Judith Lynn Stillman, artist-in-residence and a professor of music at Rhode Island College, has created a multimedia presentation titled "Phoenix from the Ashes: Terezin in Words and Music." The bulk of this year's *Yom ha-Shoah* service was devoted to Stillman's evocation of the Terezin experience in video clips, recorded music and live performance.

Stillman served as pianist, composer and narrator, while mezzo-soprano Krista River and tenor Adam Klein sang music that was once performed – and, in some cases, actually composed – in Terezin.

For me, the most poignant moment of the evening came when River sang "The Garden," a poem written by Franta Bass, a child of Terezin, murdered at Auschwitz at the age of 14.

The poem, set to Stillman's music, reads as follows:

The little garden,
Fragrant and full of roses.

The path is narrow
And a little boy walks along it.

A little boy, a sweet boy,
Like that growing blossom.

When the blossom comes to bloom
The little boy will be no more.

When the blossom comes to bloom
The little boy will be no more.

As the words of this poem appeared on the screen hanging in the front of the sanctuary, a photograph of the young poet appeared briefly – a soft face, an innocent face. The pathos of Franta Bass, just entering his teenage years, daring to acknowledge with courage and with grace the near certainly of his death at an early age.

Even in the face of death, Bass breathes deeply the fragrance of a little Terezin garden filled with roses. Even in the face of death, he affirms the wonder and the beauty of being alive.

I would like to think that the little boy who "will be no more" will somehow continue to live in the simple words he has left us.

Of the 15,000 children who passed through Terezin during the dark years of World War II, only 132 are known to have survived.

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

LETTER

Re: Letter to the Editor (May 13)

As an educator with 30 years experience, a Jew and a parent I feel compelled to respond to Howard Brown's letter dated May 13.

I am not sure in which direction the author intended to lead the reader. Is he upset that the JCDS has forged communal bonds? That Mohammad is a role model for his followers? That the Islamic School's curriculum was not vetted? That the Quran (as does the Torah) promotes adulterers to be stoned?

There are three ways in which we as teachers can help bridge the divide among our youth. First is through education. Both our scriptures teach love, acceptance and peace. Think back to the "Golden Age" that saw Muslims, Jews and Christians build a civilization that laid the groundwork for the science we know today. Averroes, St. Thomas Aquinas and Maimonides helped to usher in a period of peace for the Holy Land all based on education and respect for ideas.

The second is through the building of relationships that emphasize listening, fight simplistic stereotypes and focus on similarities. The theater program between the JCDS and the Islamic School seems to be accomplishing this quite well.

Finally, adults should not look for excuses to divide young people, be they Muslims, Jews, Christians, atheists, brown, green or purple. We adults need to lead by example and show our youth that they can be empowered to change their future.

Yes, we need to remember the past, but keep in mind that reconciliation is a road paved with love, respect and forgiveness.

I applaud the teachers, parents, and students of both the JCDS and the Islamic School of RI. Keep up the good work as you strive for one of the great tenets of Judaism – *tikkun olam*.

Dennis Morrell, Principal
NA Ferri Middle School,
Cranston

COLUMNS | LETTERS POLICY

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Rhode Island lawmakers can say never again

BY HERB WEISS

On Oct. 15, 2015, anti-Semitic and racist leaflets were distributed on Providence's East Side. Just months ago a Brown student discovered anti-Semitic messages on the walls directly across from his dorm room, where he had a mezuzah on his door. And the Joint Distribution Committee's International Centre for Community Development released a survey that reported that "two in five Jewish leaders across Europe believe the rise in anti-Semitism represents a 'major threat' to the future of their communities."

Rhode Island lawmakers are pushing legislation to use education as a way to stamp out future holocausts and genocide.

On May 5, the House passed House Bill 7488A, which requires all middle and high school students to receive instruction in holocaust and genocide studies. Following introductory remarks from Rep. Katherine S. Kazarian (D-Dist. 63), the East Providence lawmaker's measure passed the House unanimously with every member present seconding the motion for passage. Of note, the House approved the measure on Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The passage of House Bill 7488A follows the Rhode Island General Assembly's successful efforts in 2011 to enact a law titled "Genocide Education in Secondary Schools" that emphasized a need to make genocide curriculum materials available including, but not limited to, the Holocaust of WWII, and the genocides in Armenia, Cambodia, Iraq, Rwanda and Darfur. If the measure is passed by the Senate and signed into law by Gov. Gina Raimondo, it would officially empower the Department of Education to require school districts of the state to teach about these important events in history. The requirement would commence with the school year beginning in September 2017.

According to The Genocide Education Project, 11 states require the teaching of the Armenian genocide. Many of these states also require education on the Holocaust as well as other inhumane atrocities.

According to Marty Cooper, community relations director of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, when passed the legislation will make Rhode Island the first New England state to require holocaust and genocide education in its schools.

"The study of this issue will provide much needed lessons on humanity and civilization. Hopefully, students will learn why it is important for them to not allow genocide [or another Holocaust] to take place and to call for an end of all intentional actions and systematic destruction, in whole or in part, of an ethnic, racial, religious or national group," says Cooper.

"Although these are not pleasant topics to learn about in school, these events must be studied by our children in order to prevent further similar atrocities from happening in the future," says Kazarian, a fourth-generation Armenian-American. "We should never allow the atrocities of the Armenian genocide nor any form of ethnic cleansing to be repeated."

Kazarian noted that her great-grandparents had survived the Armenian genocide that took place between 1915 and 1923. According to the Armenian National Institute in Washington, D.C., the genocide resulted in the death of 1.5 million Armenians. It is estimated that close to 2 million Armenians were living in the Ottoman Empire just prior to World War I when the Turkish government subjected its Armenian population to deportation, expropriation, abduction, torture, massacre and starvation.

> **"We want to ensure that themes about genocide and the Holocaust are taught in more than an ad hoc manner, but included as part of a comprehensive curriculum."**

"My family's own history involving the Armenian genocide has shown me that these events in history should never be forgotten and it is important that our children recognize and understand how such terrible events can occur in society, and more importantly, how to stop them from happening," added Kazarian. Sen. Gayle Goldin (D-Dist. 03) of Providence has introduced a companion measure in the Rhode Island State Senate. The Senate Committee on Education heard testimony on March 30 and has held the bill for further study.

"As we look across the globe at atrocities committed in Syria and many other regions, and closer to home, where anti-Semitic graffiti appeared at Brown University as recently as March, it is clear how important it is to ensure students can place these actions into a historical context," says Goldin. "We want to ensure that themes about genocide and the Holocaust are taught in more than an ad hoc manner, but included as part of a comprehensive curriculum. These important historical lessons should be woven into studies in ways that ensure students are gaining the appropriate perspective so that we learn from the past and never again stand idle witness to genocide or the hate and fear that lead to it," she says.

Goldin continued, "When I was approached by the coalition to introduce this bill, it resonated with me personally. I'm named after my paternal great aunt and uncle, who perished in the Holocaust, along with the majority of my ancestors who died as a result of the pogroms leading up to and during the Holocaust. Those atrocities shaped my family's identity. As a child, I was taught never to forget. This legislation ensures that children will continue to learn about impact of the Holocaust and genocides in general on our society."

"The lessons of the Holocaust are more relevant than ever before. Today, we see a rise in anti-Semitism worldwide, including in the lands where the Holocaust happened. Genocide continues to occur even in the wake of the promise of 'Never Again.' Bringing this history's lessons to students is critical as their generation will be tomorrow's leaders in confronting these challenges," says Andy Hollinger, director of communications at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Hollinger adds, "The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum offers many free, online resources to educators seeking to bring Holocaust education to their students. (ushmm.org/educators) We also offer on-site training programs for educators and encourage Rhode Island educators to utilize these resources.

As June approaches, Goldin's companion measure is held for further study, this sometimes being legislative code for "bill will not see the light of day for a vote." With the increasing incidents of anti-Semitism and hate crimes in Rhode Island, throughout the nation and the world, Senate Pres. M. Teresa Paiva Weed must send a strong signal to all – "Rhode Island says Never Again." Hatred can proactively be stamped out by education. That's exactly the intent of Kazarian and Goldin's legislation.

Prime organizations managing the research and drafting of the legislation include the Armenian community, Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence, the Rhode Island Council of Churches, the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center.

HERB WEISS is a Pawtucket writer covering aging, health care and medical issues. He can be reached at hweissri@aol.com. This article previously appeared in the Pawtucket Times and the Woonsocket Call.

Trump vs. Clinton: Battle of the Jewish sons-in-law

BY URIEL HEILMAN

JTA – Somebody had better put a mezuzah on the Lincoln Bedroom.

Whoever ends up winning the election in November, one thing seems certain: For the first time in history, Jews will be in the president's inner family circle.

Both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton have Jewish sons-in-law, and of course Bernie Sanders — in the unlikely event he makes it to the White House — is Jewish himself (though his daughter-in-law is not).

With the head-to-head contest between the two likely nominees heating up, we decided to take a closer look at Jared Kushner, who is married to Ivanka Trump, and Marc Mezvinsky, who is married to Chelsea Clinton.

Age

Kushner: 35
Mezvinsky: 38

Occupation

Kushner: CEO of family real estate firm Kushner Properties and owner-publisher of The New York Observer.

Mezvinsky: Investment banker and co-founder of hedge fund Eaglevale Partners.

Education

Kushner: High school at Frisch, a modern Orthodox yeshiva in Paramus, New Jersey; B.A. from Harvard (sociology); J.D. and MBA from New York University.

Mezvinsky: High school at Friends Central in the Philadelphia suburb of Wynnewood; B.A. from Stanford (religious studies and philosophy); M.A. in international relations from the University of Oxford, England.

Family

Kushner: Grew up in Livingston, New Jersey. Father: Charles Kushner ran a real estate empire until his imprisonment and is involved in various Jewish philanthropic endeavors. Mother: Seryl Kushner is involved in the family's business and philanthropy. Has three siblings.

Mezvinsky: Grew up in Philadelphia. Both parents served stints in Congress as Democrats. Father: Edward Mezvinsky served two terms from Iowa in the 1970s (and decades later went to prison). Mother: Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, a former TV journalist, served a single term from Pennsylvania in the mid-1990s. Parents are now divorced. Has one full brother, four half-siblings and five adopted siblings.

Professional track record

Kushner: Often described as a wunderkind, Jared Kushner has doubled the assets of his family's real estate empire since taking over as CEO in 2008. In 2014, Kushner Properties did $2 billion in transactions.

Mezvinsky: Worked at Goldman Sachs for eight years before launching Eaglevale in 2011, which now has $326 million under management. But the hedge fund was down 3.6 percent in 2014, largely due to Mezvinsky's bad bets on Greek debt.

Campaign involvement

Kushner: Helped draft Donald Trump's AIPAC speech, advises the presumptive Republican nominee for president on Israel issues and is involved in assembling his White House transition team. Kushner's newspaper endorsed Trump for president.

Mezvinsky: Appears at nonpolitical events with the Clintons, but has no known involvement with Hillary's campaign.

Jewish practice

Kushner: Belongs to an Orthodox synagogue, Manhattan's Kehilath Jeshurun, observes Shabbat and kosher restrictions, and is raising children as Jews.

Mezvinsky: Grew up in a Conservative synagogue, has been seen in *shul* on occasion with wife Chelsea Clinton and is raising daughter with both Jewish and Methodist traditions.

Wife's relationship to Judaism

Kushner: Ivanka Trump underwent Orthodox conversion after studying with an Orthodox rabbi, Haskel Lookstein. She now observes Shabbat and keeps a kosher home. "We're pretty observant," she has said.

Mezvinsky: Chelsea Clinton is still a practicing Methodist. The couple married in an interfaith ceremony featuring a *Huppah* and co-officiated by Rabbi James Ponet of Yale University and Methodist Rev. William Shillady.

Why Dad went to prison

Kushner: Hired a prostitute to seduce his brother-in-law, secretly recorded the encounter and sent the tape to his sister as part of a blackmail scheme. He served 16 months after guilty pleas to 18 counts of tax

BATTLE | 16

Is it really OK for kids to be kids?

BY RUSSELL D. RASKIN

On May 10, *Yom ha-Zikaron* was honored at the Dwares Jewish Community Center in Providence. *Yom ha-Zikaron*, as its name in Hebrew implies, remembers the thousands of Israeli soldiers, Jews and non-Jews, who have given their lives during the many wars that have been thrust upon Israel since its founding. It is a solemn day, which brings to mind Golda Meir's famous statement: "We can forgive the Arabs for killing our children. We cannot forgive them for forcing us to kill their children. We will only have peace with the Arabs when they love their children more than they hate us."

It is difficult to imagine any person, especially a Jew, dishonoring *Yom ha-Zikaron*. But unfortunately that is what has occurred in our own community. On May 11, at Brown University, groups calling themselves "Brown Students for Israel," "J Street U Brown" and "Brown RISD Hillel" advertised that they would show three movies describing the Palestinian "*Nakba*," which is the Arabic term for the "catastrophic" day when the state of Israel was born. The show was further advertised as being a "discussion about the selective and political nature of memory."

Needless to say, calling Israel's birth a catastrophe brings to mind the international effort to delegitimize Israel as having been born in sin. It also ignores and disrespects history, since Israel's independence was declared only after the United Nations voted to partition the territory – a partition accepted by the Jewish community but rejected by the Arabs, who chose war instead. The insult strikes a deep nerve among Jewish people, making it even more inexplicable that a Jewish organization should engage in such provocative behavior. It should have come as no surprise to the organizers of the program that members of the Jewish community immediately expressed their shock and outrage at Brown RISD Hillel for promoting it only one day after the Jewish community honored its fallen soldiers. Giving credence and a platform to the murderers of those who were honored just the day before raises the term "tone deaf" to a level not seen since the 1930s.

And here is the part that has me laughing with tears in my eyes. Hillel announced that the event had been canceled, and it was removed from its website. However, in a scene reminiscent of a Calvin and Hobbes secret club prank – I am not making this up – the youngsters, pledged to secrecy, snuck into the Hillel building for a clandestine showing of the *Nakba* movies. Afterward, they chortled that they had out-witted those Jewish Neanderthals who foolishly thought they could prevent them from revealing Israel's Great Sins. All of this has been colorfully reported by the students themselves (openhillel.org), as well as by an eyewitness to the event (legalinsurrection.com).

Now, admittedly we have to remember these are children who are often blissfully unaware of the serious consequences of their actions. Many of them have only recently reached puberty, and are living away from their parents for the first time. Like all children of that age, it is an exciting opportunity to declare independence from parental influences. As parents, we can shrug our shoulders, wait for the immaturity to pass and continue to love them as they grow from naïve children to functioning members of society. But when the rebellion endangers the lives of millions of Jews, as parents it is our obligation to take corrective action. Moreover, it has become all too common for certain groups to take advantage of the immaturity and emotionalism of children who have only recently graduated from high school, and use these children to fight the battles that cannot be won on the battlefield.

It is time for the Jewish community to unequivocally assert that honoring our enemies dishonors our people. In fact, the real *Nakba* is how lost and misguided some of our own children have become, allowing themselves to be manipulated into thinking that demeaning the Jewish state somehow serves the cause of right and good. Schools may tolerate these antics, but history tells us that the Jewish community cannot remain silent. The Jewish community is free to reject this approach and call these activities what they are: shameful, dishonorable and self-loathing.

Kids, go to your rooms!

RUSSELL D. RASKIN is a Providence attorney. He has written this on behalf of the Rhode Island Judges and Lawyers for Israel.

'*Nakba*' event is an affront to Hillel and the local Jewish community

BY NATHAN JAPHET

The "*Nakba*" event held at Brown RISD Hillel on May 11 is alarming and sets a dangerous precedent. The event titled "Jews Facing the *Nakba*" – held on *Yom ha-Zikaron* and the eve of *Yom ha-Atzamut*, the days when the Jewish people remember Israel's fallen soldiers and celebrate Israel's independence – screened three films by Zochrot, a radical Israeli NGO, whose purpose is to raise awareness of the *Nakba* (catastrophe in Arabic) of the Palestinians and the plight of the 700,000 or so refugees and their descendants.

After pro-Israel groups on campus rightly withdrew their support for the event, Brown RISD Hillel was forced to withdraw its official support. Nevertheless, after the event was publicly canceled, the event, with some 70 Jewish students in attendance, went on with the tacit approval of Hillel which baldly lied to the general public about the cancellation.

Brown RISD Hillel should never have even considered such an event, considering that it directly contradicts Hillel International's "Standards of Partnership" which regulate what is deemed allowable to be presented at Hillel chapters nationwide and explicitly forbids groups that deny Israel's right to exist as a Jewish and democratic state.

Zochrot parrots the tired anti-Israel trope that Israel is a colonial entity and advocates for the right of return for Palestinian refugees and a bi-national state; explicitly calling for the end of the Jewish state and demanding "Israeli Jewish society's…accountability for the ongoing injustices of the *Nakba*…so that it renounces the colonial conception of its existence," according to the Zochrot website. Its shallow narrative, bereft of historical facts, presents Palestinians as blameless victims and doesn't demand accountability for Palestinian Arabs' rejection of the 1947 UN Partition plan, thus ensuring the ensuing tragedy and their own complicity in it, and their full support for an Arab invasion meant to extinguish any Jewish presence in the land. Needless to say, Jewish indigenous rights to ancestral homelands or Jews' natural right to liberation and sovereignty have no mention. Zochrot's films certainly should have not been screened at Hillel and have no place in the local Jewish community.

Such blatant disregard on the part of Brown RISD Hillel for its parent organization sets a dangerous precedent whereby Hillels nationally will begin to invite incredibly anti-Israel and divisive groups into the one space where Jewish students expect and deserve to find full support for at least the idea of Jewish sovereignty and a Jewish state.

The event's organizers released a statement rationalizing their decision to hold the event after Hillel officially withdrew its support. In it they claim they wanted to create a "pluralistic community" and "embrace Jews who are currently excluded from mainstream Jewish discourse and who seek to question dominant narratives on Israel," according to reports in an article "Jewish Students Hold *Nakba* Commemoration Event Despite Hillel Organization" in the Forward.

This is really the crux of the matter; because it should be clear to all that, in fact, despite all of the legitimate political and religious differences, and especially views on Israel, there are views that are "beyond the pale." Jewish communities must internalize that just because a Jew holds a particular position that doesn't *ipso facto* turn said position into a Jewish one. The Jewish people's natural right to sovereignty and right to live in their ancestral homeland are ironclad and just, and should be off limits to discussion. Hillel International clearly delineated this and Brown RISD Hillel overstepped its bounds in this case.

The Israel-Palestine conflict is complex, and there are a multiplicity of views and narratives. This doesn't mean that all views must be accepted, even at the risk of not being considered pluralistic and inclusive. The "big tent" of Jewish inclusiveness if stretched too wide, becomes a rug for all to trample on. If the idea of Jewish nationalism (Zionism), or its current manifestation (the state of Israel), is too messy a pill to swallow for some Jewish students then God knows that any Jew who espouses non-Zionist or even anti-Zionist views can find multiple groups on campus where he/she will be welcomed with open arms. He or she just shouldn't expect to find that embrace in Hillel.

It is offensive that on the day commemorating the over 23,000 Israeli soldiers who laid down their lives so that there could be a Jewish state, Brown RISD Hillel was hosting an event dismissing the wonderful state for which they made the ultimate sacrifice. The Brown RISD Hillel should issue a full apology and retraction of this event.

NATHAN JAPHET grew up in Pawtucket and studied at the Providence Hebrew Day School and Maimonides High School in Brookline, Massachusetts. After graduating from college, he made aliyah and is currently serving in the Nachal infantry division of the IDF.

Statement from Brown RISD Hillel

Brown RISD Hillel is deeply concerned by the activities that occurred in its facility on Wednesday, May 11, 2016. The un-authorized showing of three short films, produced by an organization that does not support a two state solution and therefore the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish, democratic state, should not have occurred.

A small group of students led the un-authorized showing in our building. Assertions that Brown RISD Hillel's Executive Director, Rabbi or staff attended the screening are false. Our board is continuing to review the issues that led to this event.

Although Brown RISD Hillel welcomes dialogue and critical discussion of Israel and its policies, it will not sponsor or host programs that question Israel's legitimacy or advocate against its right to exist as a secure, democratic, Jewish state. We stand firmly by Hillel International's Guidelines for Campus Israel Activities which will continue to be used as our guiding principles when addressing difficult subjects related to Israel programming.

Brown RISD Hillel remains deeply committed to its long and honorable tradition of serving all Jewish students on campus and inspiring them to build an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning and Israel.

Contact:
info@brownrisdhill

BROWN RISD HILLEL
The Glenn and Darcy Weiner Center

Ongoing

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

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

Through June 30

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

Saturday | May 28

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

Tuesday | May 31

PJ Library Story and Play Time with "Bubbie Sara." 3-4 p.m. Dwares JCC. Twice a month, hear stories, play games and make new friends. The group reads various PJ Library books and sings songs about different Jewish holidays throughout the year. Children make a craft. Ages 5 and under are welcome. Information, contact Sara Foster at 401-421-4111, ext. 130, or sfoster@jewishallianceri.org.

Wednesday | June 1

The Miriam Hospital Women's Association 119th Annual Meeting. 11:30 a.m. Ledgemont Country Club, 131 Brown Ave. Seekonk. Includes 32nd annual Recognition Award honoring Dr. Ruth Triedman and installation of board and officers. Seating is limited. RSVP information, call 401-793-2520.

Friday | June 3

For the Love of Shabbat. 7 p.m. Temple Sinai. 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Shabbat services include a special musical theme. Cantor Emeritus Remmie Brown has created music for the service, "For the Love of Shabbat." Brown, is joined by Temple Sinai Cantor Wendy Siegel, Cantor Deborah Johnson and Shireinu, the community chorus. They will sing the songs of Shabbat to the tunes of familiar music of the 1950s and 1960s.

Saturday | June 4

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

Sunday | June 5

West Bay Havurah Bus Trip to the Lower East Side of NYC. 7 a.m.-11 p.m. The Lower East Side of New York is a thriving neighborhood full of sites of Jewish interest, shops and restaurants. Enjoy a private, three-hour tour and KOSHER Greek lunch at Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue, built in 1927 by Romaniote Jews from Janina, Greece. Hear the story of these Jews, from their entry into Greece in the 1st century to their current life in America. These are Jews who, after the destruction of the Second Temple, were sent on a slave ship to Rome. A storm forced them to land in Greece, where over the next 2,000 years, they developed uniquely different ethnic and religious customs. Afterward, explore the neighborhood on your own. A walking tour itinerary and map is provided. Restroom-equipped bus boards at Tamarisk, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick, at 6:30 a.m., departs promptly at 7 a.m. Restroom stop and light snacks provided along the way. Bus boards NYC at 6:30 p.m., departs promptly at 7 p.m. $93 per person, first-come, first-served. Information, contact Mark Sweberg at mark.sweberg@gmail.com or 401-248-5010.

AIPAC New England Leadership Dinner. 5-9 p.m. Seaport World Trade Center. 200 Seaport Blvd., Boston. Join community leaders, members of Congress, state officials and students for AIPAC's largest gathering of pro-Israel activists in New England. $250 per person. Information, contact AIPAC New England at nedinner2016@aipac.org.

PHDS Amudim Dinner. 5-9 p.m. Providence Hebrew Day School. 450 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Honor those who have made a lasting impression on the school and the Providence community. $65 per person. Information, contact Peretz Scheinerman at pscheinerman@phdschool.org, or 401-331-5327.

Monday | June 6

31st Annual Dwares JCC Golf Classic. 11 a.m. Alpine Country Club. 251 Pippin Orchard Road, Cranston. Support of and participation in the golf classic allows continuation of vital programs and services that benefit the entire community, including those who find themselves in difficult economic situations. 11 a.m. registration, 11:30 a.m. lunch, 12:45 p.m. shotgun start, 5:30 p.m. cocktails, dinner and awards. Information, contact Hillary Schulman at 401-421-4111, ext. 127, or hschulman@jewishallianceri.org or visit jewishallianceri.org.

Friday | June 10

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

Saturday | June 11

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

Tuesday | June 14

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

Wednesday | June 15

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

Thursday | June 16

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

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

Saturday | June 18

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

Sunday | June 19

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

Saturday | June 25

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

Sunday | June 26

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

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

J-CAMP AT THE DWARES

JCC sponsors Summer Food Service Program for Children

J-Camp at the Dwares JCC, a program of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program for Children. This program is designed primarily to provide meals to children at our day camp from June 20 – Aug. 19, 2016. All campers are eligible to receive free meals while participating in the program.

J-Camp at the Dwares JCC is located at 401 Elmgrove Ave. in Providence. Our camp day runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Early arrival (8 a.m. to 9 a.m.) and extended day (4 p.m. to 6 p.m.) programs are available. Each week, campers participate in a variety of activities focused around specific themes. Campers are split into groups by age, allowing them to fill their days with exciting, age-appropriate activities and challenging opportunities to discover new interests, develop new skills and explore their surroundings. At times, all campers come together as a group to help build community. The camps starts each day outside on the fields with a morning huddle to hear news and activities and to set the tone for the day. Campers also have the opportunity come together as a whole during lunch. Special programs are planned throughout the summer.

Weekly schedules allow children to rotate through a variety of activities, including specialties many have grown to love. There are electives each day that allow campers to focus on a specific interest, with the number of elective periods varying by age. Campers have swim lessons daily and the opportunity to choose free swim for one of their electives. Each week a special visitor conducts lessons and activities based on the week's theme. The camp takes weekly field trips. Campers make challah for Shabbat every Friday.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or to register, please visit the camp website at jewishallianceri.org or contact Seth Finkle at 401-421-4111, ext 146.

Easy gluten-free brownies feature halvah and tahini

BY ALY MILLER

(The Nosher via JTA) – Gluten-free brownies – when made without those unpredictably tricky gluten-free flours – is the kind of dessert that speaks to me: fudgy, rich and, above all, very easy to make.

With halvah turning up everywhere from cinnamon buns to doughnuts to ice cream, I couldn't wait to try it out in my favorite baked good.

After much deliberation at Russ and Daughters – marbled dark chocolate or seven layer halvah? – I ordered a block of pistachio halvah, which was weighed and wrapped by an older gentleman in a crisp, white jacket. It became mine with the fanfare of a loud and gravely, "hal-vahhhh!"



Inspired by Elana Amsterdam's recipe for Sunbutter Brownies (my favorite gluten-free brownie recipe), I set out to make tahini and halvah gluten-free brownies.

Creamy, slightly savory tahini combined with cocoa powder, honey and chocolate chips will make a brownie that is dense – but not so rich you can't have more than one. All you need is 30 minutes, and a brownie, or three, can be yours.

Gluten-Free Tahini Halvah Brownies

Ingredients

1/2 cup tahini, plus 1/4 cup to drizzle on top
3 eggs
1/2 cup agave nectar, honey or maple syrup (I used a mixture)
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon apple cider vinegar
1/2 cup cocoa powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 cup chocolate chips
1/3 cup crumbled halvah

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Combine tahini, eggs and your choice of liquid sweetener in a food processor.

Add cocoa powder, salt, baking soda, spices and vanilla.

Transfer this mixture to an 8-by-8-inch baking dish, or a circular cake pan if you don't have a square dish on hand. Stir in the chocolate chips (if using). Then crumble halvah on top of the mixture, letting it sit at the top of the batter or just below the surface.

Spoon the tahini evenly over the top of the batter. If you want, you can swirl the top layer with a spoon. (I find that if you don't stir it, the tahini and halvah sit better on top of the brownies, and if you stir it, some of the halvah sinks below the surface.)

Bake for 15-20 minutes and let cool for 30 minutes to an hour. The longer it sets, the easier it will be to cut. Serve and nosh!

ALY MILLER is a 2011 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she studied human geography and lived in a lively vegan Jewish co-op. She's been living in Brooklyn, New York, for the past three years. When she's not writing about food, she's probably cooking or illustrating it. Follow her at twitter.com/alymillr.

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 The-Nosher.com.

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Fifth Annual Meeting

Jewish Alliance
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

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

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

Reception to follow

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Providence native is a budding opera singer

BY MELANIE COON

You could say that Providence native Ilana Goldstein is a triple threat: gifted violinist, talented soprano and a college graduate with a degree in cognitive neuroscience.

Goldstein lives in Chicago, where she is just finishing up the first year of a two-year master's degree program in voice and opera at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music. Northwestern has been her home base since she graduated from Providence's Wheeler School in 2009; she received an additional bachelor's in voice performance as part of a special five-year undergraduate program at Northwestern.

Goldstein says she found a clear connection between her academic and performance work.

"Learning the science concurrently with my classes in music cognition and music therapy was actually perfect," she says. "There were lots of overlaps I wasn't expecting."

Continuing on in neuroscience or instrumental music tempted Goldstein, but ultimately she decided to focus on voice in her graduate work. Still, she is quick to say that she continues to study violin, loves to play chamber music and hopes to also pick up the viola.

In high school, Goldstein served as concertmaster of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Music School, where she began lessons at the age of three; she continued as concertmaster in Northwestern's Philharmonic Orchestra, where she performed many violin solos, including in Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade."

Today, however, Goldstein is intensively pursuing her vocal career, which she sees as a natural extension of her classical music study and her keen interest in opera.

"Opera is a global art form. It's relevant," she says. "It brings together history, literature, music and drama, and requires an understanding of more than one language. And – most people don't consider this – there is also the sheer physical exertion of making a big sound with no amplification. It's a true feat of athleticism!"

Goldstein was captivated by opera when she studied in Vienna for five months. She and a group of friends regularly attended performances.

"Standing room was something like 2 euros. And we had the best view in the house," she says.

On June 5, Goldstein will experience a homecoming when she appears as a soloist with the Narragansett Bay Symphony Community Orchestra (NaBSCO) during a performance at the Smith Center at Providence College. Her solo comes during the final movement of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 4. Often called "The Youth's Magic Horn," the symphony is a musical interpretation of poetry describing a child's perspective of heaven.



Ilana Goldstein

Goldstein characterizes the entire symphony as being about memory. And the final movement?

"It's not sad, there are no references to death, although we do assume this child has died. It's nuanced. There are dark and light moments," she says.

The performance will be a true family affair; Goldstein's parents are NaBSCO members. Mother Amy, who also serves on the board of musical group Aurea, is a flutist, and her father, Bruce, is a violinist. Rehearsals have been held at the Music School, Goldstein's old stomping grounds.

Goldstein has no lack of performances to complete before her return trip to Rhode Island. As of this writing, she was preparing to appear in Northwestern's production of the modern opera "Susannah," by Carlisle Floyd, as well as the chorus for Mahler's second "Resurrection" symphony, which she and classmates were to perform in Chicago's Millennium Park over Memorial Day weekend. Then, of course, there are exams to take and a plane to catch so she can rehearse with NaBSCO. She considers this all part of the intensive training involved in the life she has chosen.

Goldstein is philosophical about a career as an opera singer. "Your voice doesn't mature until you are at least 30. In the meantime, I'm always finding different ways of singing in small groups. I love the theatricality of opera, but there are other ways of doing music as a career."

In fact, one of the reasons Goldstein is so happy to be at Northwestern is that she has found a cohort of like-minded music lovers and scholars serious about their art and willing to take risks. Next year she will be co-president of a student-founded, student-run opera company, the Chamber Opera Initiative (COI). This year she served as fundraising chair and used crowdfunding to support the company's double bill of "The Old Maid and the Thief" by Giancarlo Menotti and "Doctor Miracle" by Georges Bizet, performed in collaboration with a chamber orchestra and student conductors.

Goldstein is also a member of the Beinen Contemporary/Early Vocal Ensemble. "We perform new music – written no more than 10 years ago – that some people would consider strange." The 24-voice ensemble sings a highly specialized, virtuosic repertoire, drawing connections between contemporary and early music, primarily that of the Renaissance.

Goldstein laughs when asked what she does outside of school.

"I don't really have any time for other activities – it's kind of all-consuming!" she says.

To help pay the bills, however, she manages to squeeze in time to tutor students for their ACTs and SATs. She also auditions for programs that will build her repertoire and provide important experience.

For now, Chicago suits her. "This is a great place to get started, with a lot of small companies."

In the future, she imagines a move to New York City, or possibly Europe, where, she points out, singers are hired for "festival" jobs based on their voice types and have the opportunity to sing a variety of roles over the course of a season.

A role Goldstein would love to play is Elvira in Mozart's "Don Giovanni." Elvira, she says, "gets to scream at Don Giovanni for the whole opera. She is ruined by him but still loves him and wants to reform him. She follows him around and tries to thwart his plans to ruin other young women. It's such a great role and, again, so relevant. You cannot force people to change."

Given all the sacrifices involved in a career in the arts, does Goldstein ever feel discouraged?

"You have to try doing this while you're young. And I would not be happy not trying," she says.

MELANIE COON, a member of The Jewish Voice's editorial advisory group, lives in Providence and has known Ilana Goldstein for nearly 20 years.

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PHOTO | ARIEL BROTHMAN

At the lecture: (left to right) Ken Turkewitz, executive director of Tifereth Israel Congregation; Cindy Yoken; Rabbi Harold Kushner, keynote speaker; Mel Yoken; event co-sponsor Sheldon Friedland

Rabbi Kushner speaks about 'Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life'

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. – On May 15, Harold S. Kushner, the prominent conservative rabbi and author of the best-selling book "When Bad Things Happen to Good People," spoke at Tifereth Israel Congregation.

Formerly rabbi of Temple Israel, in Natick, Massachusetts, Kushner's book was published in 1981. It was written after the death of his son, Aaron, who was born with the rare rapid-aging genetic disorder progeria. Rabbi Kushner has written other books since then, has spoken at venues around the country and has been featured in publications such as Time magazine.

Kushner's speech at Tifereth Israel was a complement to his newest book, "Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life." He spoke about humans' belief in God, God's role in human life, about his experiences as a rabbi, and about coping with and learning from the death of Aaron as a teenager.

Some of his wise and inspirational stories, with the occasional infusion of humor, focused on living with and loving Aaron. He told of his son's deep-seated sense of compassion; at an age that is notorious for judging, Aaron regularly comforted his peers. This was only one of the traits that Kushner admired in Aaron, and it seems to have served as a sort of personal fuel.

"When you admire someone, and the person dies, the biggest tribute you can pay is to pick up the things that are valuable to him and see that they continue to live on," he said.

Rabbi Kushner says he doesn't blame God for making his son sick. Instead, he thanks God for giving him the strength and ability to love and care for him.

"If anyone said on New Year's Day in 1963 that we would have a child with a series of health problems, I would have said, 'God, please don't test me. I know my limits … that will break me.' But I think everyone here has had that experience," he said. "Human beings – and you all know this – human beings are stronger than they believe they can be."

He continued on to say that the "greatest religious value in everyone's life is the capacity for forgiveness," and shared personal stories of preaching forgiveness. The greatest story, he said, was that of Joseph, who forgave the brothers who had sold him into slavery.

The speech was a part of the congregation's annual Ziskind Memorial Lecture, which has brought nationally known speakers to the congregation for more than 40 years. The event was underwritten by Sheldon Friedland in memory of his wife, Shulamith Friedland, and her parents.

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

Jewish Seniors Agency names 2 leaders

Susan Bazar, of East Greenwich, has been named executive director of the Jewish Seniors Agency of RI (JSA). A JSA Board of Trustees member for the past 12 years and past board president, she is an alumna of Tufts University Community Health program and is secretary of the Miriam Foundation. She is a longtime community advocate for senior care.



Susan Bazar

Bonnie A. Sekeres, of Barrington, has been promoted to assistant executive director of JSA. In her new position she will oversee the Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island program and The Louis & Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry. She also remains executive director of Shalom and Shalom II Housing. She serves on Rhode Island's Long Term Care Coordinating Council and on LeadingAge RI, as well as the Alliance for Better Long Term Care's Executive Committee.



Susan Bazar

JSA is a full continuum-of-care organization ensuring that Rhode Island seniors have access to quality-driven care, shelter, comfort and companionship. For information, go to jsari.org

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Look beyond that traditional graduation party

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

Caps and gowns are officially in season, so it's time to start planning for some end-of-school fun. Want something a little out of the ordinary? Barbecues and at-home parties are a classic option, but if you have a sparkle of unconventionality in your soul, read on!

A 'wild' party. The first thing that might come to mind when one thinks of the zoo is a great day out with the little ones. But according to Roger Williams Park Zoo's Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Jan Mariani, the zoo's facilities include spaces for a creative celebration – what she calls "the playful option." Possibilities include a ship, the carousel grounds, and even a tree house where guests can have buffets, beverage areas and full catering services. Says Mariani, "It is definitely a great time for students and young people. It's [the tree house] a different kind of feel." In some areas, she says, there is even the possibility of a furry friend or two roaming around.

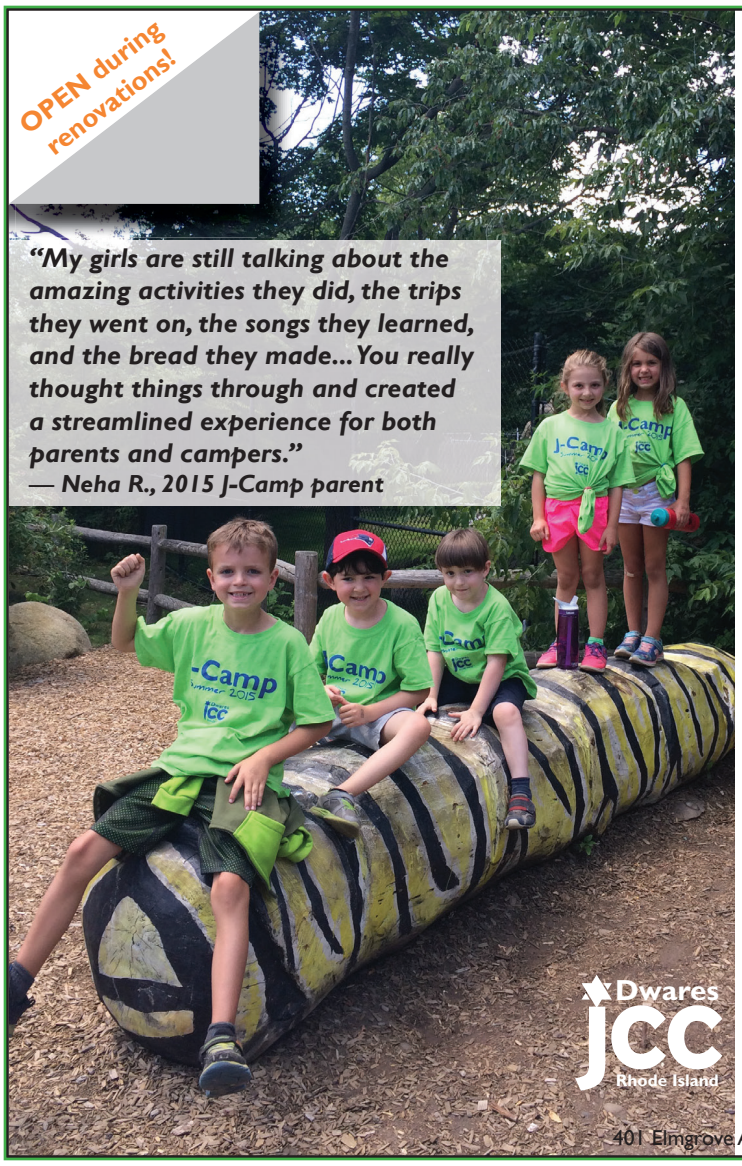
Bounce around. When I was a kid, I loved trampolines. But never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that one day, someone would come up with the idea of having an establishment full of them. And there's one of those establishments right in Rhode Island where grads can party. On its website, Launch RI in Warwick specifically mentions college groups as a perfect fit for a hoppin' day of celebration. According to the website, groups can even choose to stay overnight and have breakfast at the park the next morning.

No holds barred. Sometimes, your neighborhood spot is a good option. You know the people there and it feels comfortable. But sometimes, it's good to let loose and try something new. Point Street Dueling Pianos attracts patrons of all ages to hear their favorite tunes played on a piano and laugh along with the comedic pianists. If you like variety, why not try one of many area spots with outdoor seating. Many have already opened and more will be opening as the weather gets warmer.

A rockin' good time. Just because you've finished school doesn't mean you have to stop your climb to success! Rock Spot Climbing, in Lincoln, provides the perfect solution – literally. According to Paul Heppner, Rock Spot's retail buyer and outdoor guide, the indoor climbing facility has hosted parties for as few as four and up to approximately 100 people. Party-goers can play climbing games and climb until midnight (when the facility closes), or if party-goers opt to stay overnight, you can keep climbing 'til the sun rises! Climbers have brought board games as well as laptops and DVDs, and can bring food or order pizza. Rock Spot even makes climbing-themed cakes.

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

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Life is a series of graduations that move us forward

We all graduate in life. Whenever we learn a life lesson, we graduate to the next level. It may sometimes seem like we fall back when we learn a lesson, but the lesson is a graduation that moves us forward to the next step.


PATRICIA RASKIN

Rabbi Noah Weinberg, in his article "Jewish Secrets of Success," on Aish.com, states, "We are born into a particular set of circumstances, as determined by God. We only have control over the effort that we exert. How we deal with our particular circumstances determines whether we are a success. Where we stand on the ladder is less important than how many rungs we've climbed."

The analogy to the ladder resonated for me because I feel graduation means acceptance of my qualitative work, not just my quantitative accomplishments. I spoke to a wonderful rabbi in our community recently who reminded me that my external accomplishments are part of why I am graduating to the next level, but not all of it.

He pointed out that I talked a lot about numbers in our discussion and in doing so I could be missing my inner achievements of doing service, changing lives and making a true difference. I sometimes brush this aside and only count the tangible parts of success.

So, for graduates on all levels, I think we all need to look at how we serve others, the community and *ha-Shem*. I am speaking to myself here as well.

Rabbi Tsafi Lev, student director of the West Coast CLAL Rabbis Without Borders, wrote an article on myjewishlearning.com titled "What IT Means to Graduate."

"Dear Graduate, make this day count. Shift your focus from what you have done to what you can now accomplish because you are graduating. See today as a wonderful step toward finding your own unique path towards a lasting and positive contribution to humankind," he wrote.

"Life is a wonderful journey of many graduations – resist looking back as if on a plateau because if you do, you'll be disappointed that there is still so much to climb. Instead, look up and past this moment, far past it if you can, and you will see far ahead of you."

In my radio interview with Robbie Holz, the author of "Aboriginal Secrets of Awakening," he said, "The Aborigines don't look behind, they look forward and focus on where they are going."

We graduate every time we learn a lesson and move on in a forward and positive direction.

Happy graduation, everyone!

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.

FROM PAGE 9

BATTLE

evasion, witness tampering and making illegal campaign donations.

Mezvinsky: Bilked friends, family and strangers out of some $10 million in bogus schemes disguised as investments in Africa and oil development. He served five years after pleading guilty to 31 counts of felony fraud, including bank fraud, mail fraud and wire fraud.

Residence

Kushner: Stylish 10-room apartment on Manhattan's Upper East Side at – where else? – Trump Park Avenue.

Mezvinsky: A sleek apartment in Manhattan's Flatiron district, on 26th Street, that the couple bought in 2013 for $10.5 million.

Children

Kushner: Theodore James, 2 months; Joseph Frederick, 2; Arabella Rose, 4.

Mezvinsky: Daughter Charlotte, 1, and one on the way.

Look

Kushner: "Baby-faced," "sandy haired" and "handsome."

Mezvinsky: Bespectacled with a perennial 5 o'clock shadow.

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For a Jewish boy from Rhode Island, college life provides thought-provoking challenges

BY GORDON EIDES

I am a high school senior at Moses Brown School. This school is the embodiment of what I call the "Rhode Island Effect": Every day I am welcomed by the same people and I feel comfortable knowing that I am never far from a friendly and familiar face.

The same thing happens when I go nearly anywhere in Rhode Island, whether it be to the movies or to eat on Thayer Street in Providence.

I've been at Moses Brown for the past 10 years and now the time has come to go to college. I could not possibly be going to a more different environment. At Moses Brown, there are about 100 students in my grade and only about 15 people in each class. I will be going to the University of Michigan in the fall, along with about 6,500 other freshmen, in an undergraduate student body of about 35,000.

Besides all the new faces, I will also be encountering many more Jewish people than I ever have at my current school. Despite a strong Jewish community in Providence, and Rhode Island as a whole, I have been one of three Jewish students in my grade at Moses Brown.

The few people I already know at Michigan are all Jewish and involved in Greek life. Only about 17 percent of Michigan students participate in Greek life, but for the people I already know there, it is the main hub of their social life. When I visited them, I was faced with a very unfamiliar question: "Will you want to be in a Jewish frat or a frat with mostly Jewish people?"

I already started feeling the sense of community between Jewish students at Michigan.

I had applied to about 15 schools and had received many acceptances and rejections without hearing from my top choice, Michigan. It was my top choice because of the mix of academic prestige and strong sense of school spirit.

Of course, the day I finally heard was April Fools' Day – but, thankfully, it was not a joke. My first instinct after receiving my acceptance was to read up and learn everything I could about the school. I was bombarded with news of the football program and its rapid success in Coach Jim Harbaugh's first season.

Other articles that I read gave me a very different feel for the school as a whole.

Freedom of expression is a prized right at most schools, and Michigan is no different. Most of the time, this results in protests or movements to fix injustices on college campuses around the country and world. But there have been some cases of students on college campuses, including Michigan, expressing anti-Semitism or strong feelings against the state of Israel. There also seems to be a lot of support for the BDS (boycott, divestment, and sanctions) movement against Israel, as punishment for alleged mistreatment of Palestinians.



Moses Brown School where I have been attending classes for 10 years.

It is good to know that while Jewish students face this opposition, they also have the right to stand united, build community and express their own opinions on college campuses.

Coming from a small, private, Quaker school, I have very rarely experienced genuine opposition to my religious practices or my beliefs. I have had to answer basic questions about Judaism and accept some light-hearted jokes, but this is something else entirely. For the first time in my college fact-gathering process, I had found negative, anti-Jewish sentiment.

Mostly, I had encountered the opposite in Ann Arbor, Michigan, home of the University of Michigan: The famous bakery and deli Zingerman's is run by two Jewish alums, Jewish bakeries and delis line the streets, and the large and beautiful Hillel and Chabad both have enormous student involvement.

I will be attending a large school where I will be able to find the very large and tight-knit Jewish community that I have already heard a lot about, but I will need to think about my reaction to opposition.

It's ignorant to assume that you will be completely accepted at any place you go. I will need to show up on campus and find out who my friends are and whom to associate with - a common and daunting goal for any incoming freshman.

GORDON EIDES is a senior at Moses Brown School. He is completing a senior project at The Voice.



The University of Michigan where I will be attending school in the fall, along with about 6,500 other freshmen.

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An amazing year of sights, sounds and brotherhood in Israel

BY YAACOV SCHOCHET

I've been privileged to spend the past year studying in Jerusalem. Everywhere I go, I feel a sense of love and brotherhood with my fellow Jews. The beauty of the entire land is like nothing I've ever experienced.

From the time I stepped off the plane, I felt that I had come home. To hear people speaking in Hebrew, and know that everyone is a brother, was an experience that I had never imagined.

In my first month, my school class took a trip to Eilat, in the south of Israel. On the way, we stopped at Mitzpei Rimon, a scenic overlook with a breathtaking view of a crater. We stood at the edge and watched the sun rise over God's land with a sense of awe at the beauty of it all.

In Eilat, we rented a boat and went out onto the sparkling waters of the Red Sea. We had the opportunity to scuba dive, and I saw fish that I had never seen before: everything was so bright and colorful, I felt like I was in an undersea paradise.

The first time that I went to The Shuk, the open-air market in Jerusalem, I was amazed by the sounds, sights, and smells, and the sheer diversity of the crowd – American tourists, Arab vendors, Haredi Jews, secular Jews … people of every stripe and type. The raw energy that one feels walking down Ben Yehuda Street is hard to describe and nothing short of amazing. One stall sold fruits, the next freshly ground spices, the next carrot juice. It is a microcosm of the entire land packed into less than four blocks.

Visiting the Old City was one of the first things I did in Jerusalem. Walking down the cobblestone streets that my ancestors walked hundreds of years before gave me an intense sense of connection – a feeling of history and destiny lies in the very stones of the pavements and the bricks of the houses.

But the strongest feeling of connection came when I stood before the Western Wall, one of the oldest structures from our history. The reminder that this is a remnant of the temple that once stood here gives a feeling of hope; the wall has witnessed the trials and travails of our nation and tells the story of our endurance through the ages.

During the summer I took a trip, a *tiyul*, to visit Netanya, a beautiful beach town in the north of Israel. There I experienced the whitest sand and bluest water I had ever seen – another testament to the beauty of the land. I traveled with a stunning group of people from all across the religious and ethnic spectrum, all spending time and enjoying God's beauty together.

Tveryah, one of the ancient cities of Israel, was another incredible experience. We swam in the crystal-clear waters of the Kinneret and took an evening cruise to watch the sunset. Looking out at the water made me think about how different things would have been if we had been sent to settle in Uganda, as originally planned – instead of sitting at the northernmost end of the Rift Valley, I very well might have been sitting at its southern tip.

In the ancient and mystical city of Tzfat, there were interesting people on every corner of its quaint, winding, cobblestoned streets. Tzfat is also home to an ancient graveyard, dating to the times of the Mishnah and the Talmud. Again, I felt the connection to my ancestors grow.

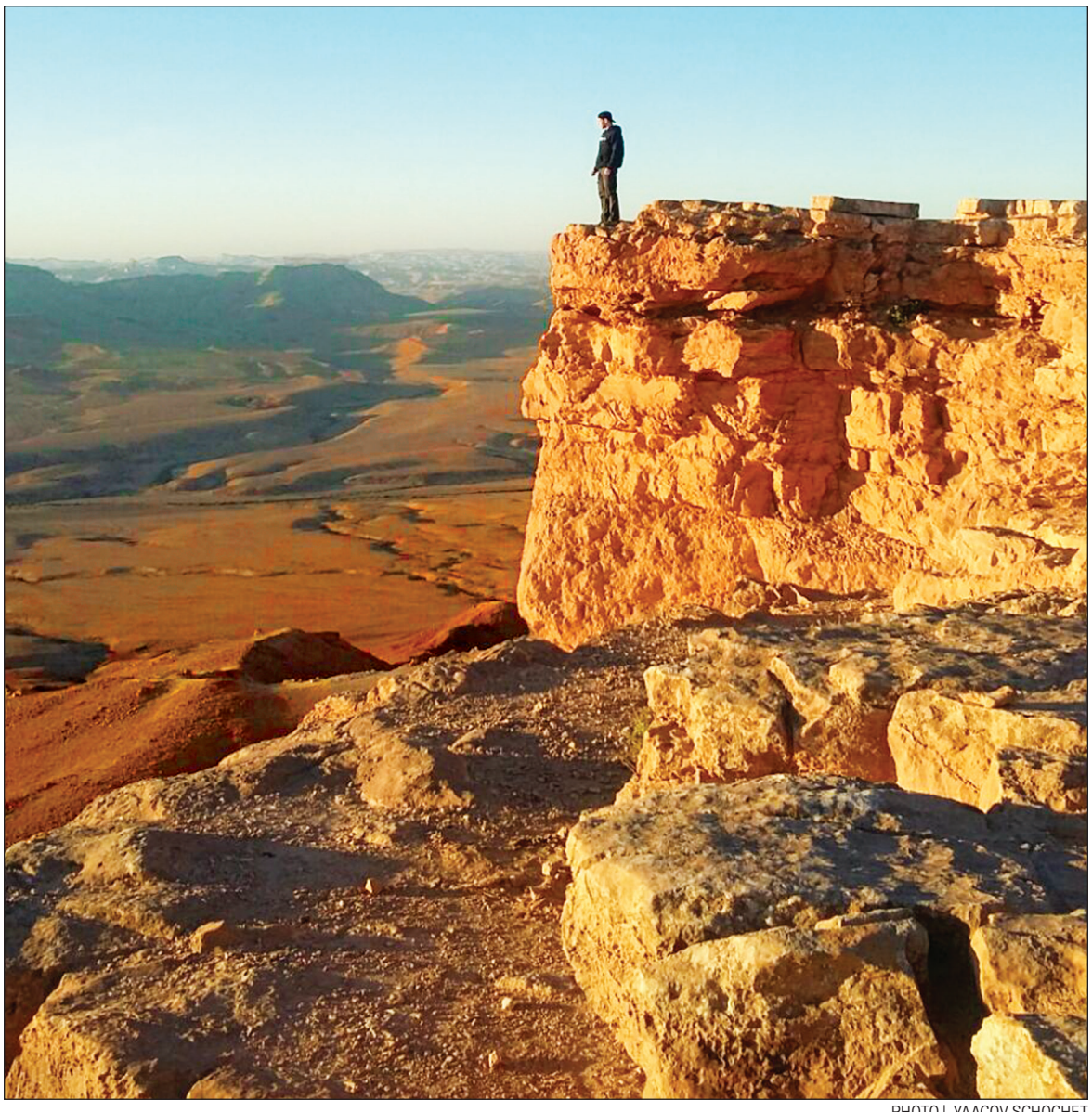


PHOTO | YAACOV SCHOCHET

Overlooking Mitzpei Rimon.

Another unforgettable experience was joining the Gadna, the youth brigade, for a short time. I got a firsthand look at the discipline and high moral standards of the Israeli army. It gave me a chance to be in close proximity with Israeli kids, and bond with them as we went through exercises and carried stretchers. I have lasting friendships from that experience.

My entire experience in Israel is one of forging bonds and making connections, which was only made possible through the generosity of the Jewish Alliance. I want to take this chance to express my deep gratitude to the Alliance for helping me make this trip a reality. I feel that I've learned, seen and grown so much during the past year, which would not have been possible without the generous help and support of the Alliance and the Providence Jewish community.

I plan to continue my studies in Israel, and eventually to live there.

YAACOV SCHOCHET, of Providence, is studying in Israel this year.







Seth Finkle and Noam Spector, summer J-Camp shalich.



Maor Mintz, Seth Finkle and Noam Spector.

Training is an important bonding experience

BY SETH FINKLE
sfinkle@jewishallianceri.org

In April, I was fortunate to travel to Israel for the summer *shlichim* (Israeli emissary) training held at Kibbutz Shefayim outside Tel-Aviv. Every year, the Jewish Community Center Association (JCCA) picks 10 camp directors to travel – at no cost – to the *shlichim* training.

In order to be chosen for the program, a candidate had to complete a short questionnaire, serve as a camp director for at least one year, have participated in the *shlichim* program before and again in the current year and never been to the training. It was an honor to be chosen by the JCCA to travel to the training to meet our 2016 summer J-Camp *shaliach*, Noam Spector.

Our group of 10 camp directors spent four days at an intense day camp training that all the *shlichim* go through in order to get ready to come to the United States. It was like being at camp: we danced, laughed and ate with more than 150 young Israelis. We covered a variety of topics including what to expect at camp to Color War games and what to expect from host families. Each day, I had the opportunity to work one-on-one with Noam and tell her all about how great summer J-Camp is. Many people remember Maor Mintz, the summer *shaliach* for a few years. He was one of the trainers at the seminar. He could not say enough great things about summer J-Camp and Rhode Island. His enthusiasm helped Noam get excited and ready to come to camp.

Getting to know and spend time with Noam was invaluable. Among other things, Noam will bring Israeli culture and a background in theater to camp. She studied theater in school, worked with a local theater company in her hometown of Modi'in. During her time in the army, Noam worked with children who made *aliyah* with their families and taught them skills such as community building and Hebrew. Noam is extremely friendly and excited to spend her summer getting to know everyone at J-Camp. Here are Noam's thoughts about the seminar:

"Being the only *shaliach* at camp sounds scary at first. Before the seminar I didn't know a thing about the camp, about what is expected from me. I had so many questions and no idea how to prepare myself for the summer.

"Having Seth, my camp director, at the training was meaningful in so many ways.

"First, I felt important. We connected and I knew I didn't need to worry about the summer because someone is interested to hear how I feel and what do I need and what do I have to offer.

"At the training we had lot of time to talk about J-Camp, helping me understand the vibe, writing ideas, brainstorming and just to hear about the community.

"Just by the videos and the stories I felt enthusiastic and wanted to go home and prepare myself to be the best *shaliach* I can be.

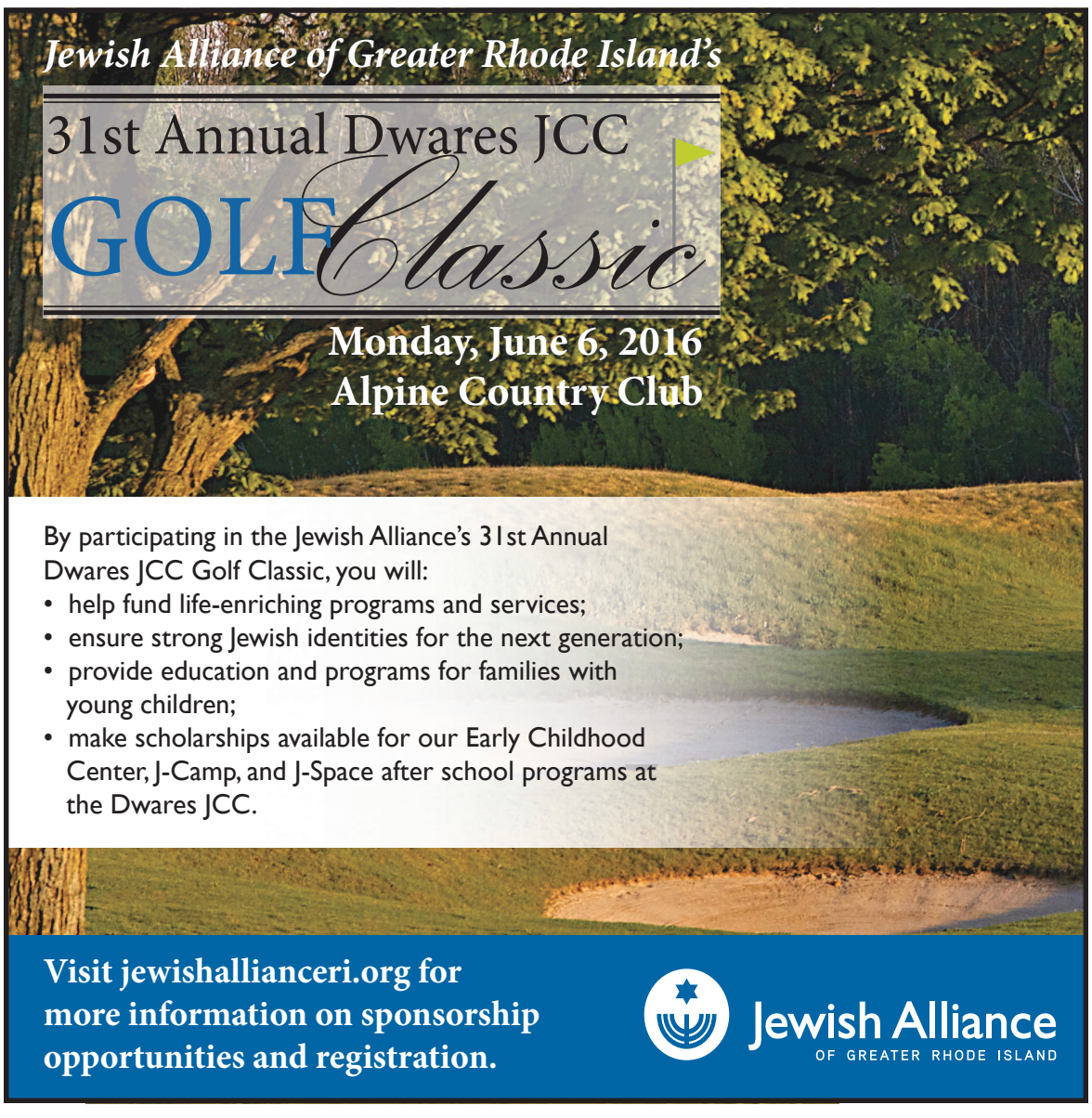
"I cannot compare working face-to-face and talking over emails. Training with a camp director makes it real.

"I am so thankful for the experience and I can't wait for summer to begin and working with my camp director and all the campers I heard about."

The remainder of the trip was a three-day tour of Israel with the nine other directors. We traveled to Jerusalem where we walked the Old City and visited the Kotel. We celebrated Shabbat in Tel-Aviv. Before leaving, we took a 4 ½-hour walking tour of Tel-Aviv and Jaffa. We spent some time on the beach and experienced *havdalah* on the beach at sunset. It was a very meaningful and spiritual journey. The directors on the trip became colleagues and friends. I feel so fortunate to have been able to share this experience with them. I came home with a renewed excitement for summer camp and love for Israel and for being Jewish. Many thanks to Aaron Greenberg and David Ackerman from the JCCA for this amazing opportunity.

SETH FINKLE is director of Camp Haverim and teen programming coordinator at the Jewish Alliance. To learn more about summer J-Camp, visit jewishallianceri.org.





Muslim scholar, educator and chaplain to speak at Congregation Beth Sholom

BY SHAI AFSAI

Celene Ibrahim – scholar, educator and chaplain – will speak on June 4 at Providence's Congregatiaon Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., following Shabbat morning services.

Ibrahim holds a joint faculty appointment as Islamic Studies Scholar-in-Residence at Hebrew College and Andover Newton Theological School, where she co-directs the Center for Inter-Religious and Communal Leadership Education (CIRCLE). She also serves as the Muslim Chaplain for Tufts University.

Recognized as a Harvard Presidential Scholar, Ibrahim's contributions to increasing religious literacy have been featured on the BBC, Public Radio International and the Religion Initiative of the Council on Foreign Relations. Her academic interests range from Muslim feminist theology and theologies of religious pluralism to critical social theory and the history of Islamic intellectual thought.

For the past few years, Ibrahim has intensively organized Jewish-Muslim joint theological learning in different contexts. However, this will be her first time speaking to a Modern Orthodox congregation.

"Many Muslim communities share with Modern Orthodox congregations similar goals and challenges involving how to honor and preserve religious laws in a contemporary world that differs, in some substantial ways, from the context and milieu in which the laws were originally given," Ibrahim notes. "We also share an appreciation for ritual, for worship, for the power of scripture and for the subtle heart that has awakened through witnessing the signs of the One. We are siblings through language and faith."



Celene Ibrahim

During her talk, Ibrahim plans to reflect briefly with the congregation on her experiences with different forms of Jewish-Muslim theological engagement, and on what she sees works best and why. In addition, she intends to talk about the role of Moses in the Quran and in Islam, and about the Quranic idea of "people of the book" and "Children of Israel." There will also be plenty of time for questions.

"Often, interfaith dialogue occurs among non-equals, in a certain sense," according to Congregation Beth Sholom's Rabbi Barry Dolinger. "Frequently, those engaging in the conversation at a lay level have limited knowledge of their respective faiths and are sometimes not particularly active practitioners, whether from one faith or the other."

In that context, Dolinger feels it is important to have a Muslim scholar and educator of Ibrahim's caliber address the congregation. "I'm so excited by this visit because it's the exact opposite of some of the lay level interfaith interactions that often occur," he said. "To have a devout and learned Muslim woman speaking in a modern Orthodox Jewish congregation is the perfect match."

Dolinger also believes that Modern Orthodoxy has a special role in interfaith dialogue. "I like to think that we represent that branch of Judaism that is devoutly loyal to the past but also fully informed and educated, applying teachings most relevantly to the modern world and embracing the advances of today, challenges and all, and not merely confronting them. I'm excited to learn from Celene and think this will be a wonderful opportunity for our congregation."

FOR MORE INFORMATION about Celene Ibrahim's June 4 talk, contact Rabbi Barry Dolinger at rabbi@bethsholom-ri.org.

SHAI AFSAI (ggbi@juno.com) lives in Providence. His exhibit on the priests of Ethiopian Jewry in Israel is on display at Barrington's Temple Habonim through the end of June.

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New hours for the RIJHA

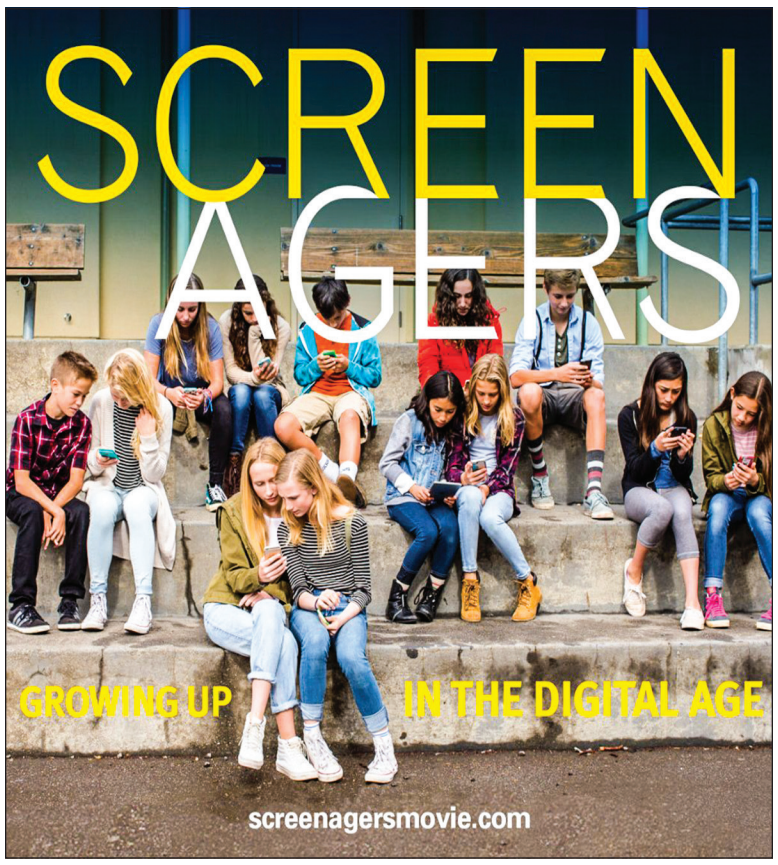
The Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association announces new hours beginning June 1.

The office and library will be open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.to 2:30 p.m., with a closure for lunch from noon to 12:30 p.m.

In addition, the office and library will now be open the second Sunday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. On those weeks when the office and library are open on Sunday, they will be closed on Friday.

As always, the archive is available at other times by appointment.

Please contact the office with any questions by phone (401-331-1360) or email (info@rijha.org).



'Screenagers' is for tweens, teens and adults

Are you watching kids navigate the world through touch screens? Do you and your teen struggle to negotiate screen time? If so, you are one of many concerned parents.

Kesher (a congregational outreach program of Jewish Family Service funded by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island) and Congregation Beth Sholom recognize the stress that these issues and questions can bring to family life. In an effort to begin a dialogue about this topic, Kesher and CBS will host a viewing of "Screenagers: Growing up in a Digital Age," Sunday, June 5, at noon at the Cable Car Cinema 204 S. Main St., Providence.

This event welcomes tweens, teens and adults to engage in a thoughtful dialogue about the issues that arise around all those screens.

In this film, physician and award-winning documentarian, Delaney Ruston, explores struggles over social media, video games, academics and Internet addiction. By working to inspire real conversation between parents and adolescents, "Screenagers" examines how tech time impacts development and explores solutions geared toward empowering kids to best navigate the digital world.

If you and/or your child are interested in attending this screening, tickets are available through the "Screenagers" website: screenagersmovie.com/find-a-screening/. There will be a facilitated discussion after the viewing.

Five habits that can lead to a greener, happier life

(Family Features) – Whether you take shorter showers, reduce food waste or make eco-minded choices at the grocery store, adopting one simple habit can make a difference in protecting Earth's natural resources. These simple, renewable lifestyle changes may affect your personal mindset.

According to findings from a scientific study and survey commissioned by Tetra Pak, adopting simple renewable lifestyle habits can help people go from feeling glum to good. According to the survey, a majority of people (70 percent) feel happier when they make choices that help preserve natural resources. This study comes on the heels of the world's first social experiment in renewability, conducted by three esteemed academic experts in habit and behavioral science, which uncovered how renewable lifestyle choices – habits that help preserve natural resources – influence levels of happiness.

"We believe that even simple lifestyle behaviors have the power to make a big impact, on both a personal and global scale," said Elisabeth Comere, director of environment and government affairs for Tetra Pak. "The combined benefit of the small actions we take, from taking shorter showers to choosing products in renewable packaging – made of natural resources that can be replenished over time – can benefit the world around us while making us happier."

Adopting one of these simple renewable habits can help preserve the planet's resources while fast-tracking levels of happiness:



PHOTO | TETRA PAK

1. Conserve resources, including water. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that cutting your shower by just one minute will save 2½ gallons of water. Over time, that savings adds up: 75 gallons per month and nearly 1,000 gallons over the course of a year.

2. Choose products in renewable packaging. Choosing food and beverage products in renewable packaging is a natural extension of environmentally friendly habits, such as recycling or composting. From milk and soup to water and juice, you can find food products packaged in cartons – primarily made from paper, a renewable resource from growing forests.

3. Buy only what you can consume. At the grocery store, it's easy to overshop, especially if you're hungry. Buy only what you need to reduce waste and seek groceries that are considered renewable, such as fruits and vegetables, and carton-packed food and beverages in packages made from renewable materials. Carton-packed foods last longer, are easy to store and have a relatively low environmental footprint.

4. Use re-usable containers. These days, hectic lifestyles are the norm and that often means meals and beverages on the go. When possible, rely on re-usable drink and food containers instead of disposable ones.

5. Whenever you can, bike or walk instead of driving. According to data compiled by National Geographic, it takes nearly 13 gallons of water to produce each gallon of gasoline. Using alternative modes of transportation and taking care to combine errands, car pool and use public transportation help cut water and energy demands.

To learn more about how making simple, renewable lifestyle changes can help boost happiness or to take the Habits of Happiness quiz to assess your personal happiness level, visit tetrapak.com/us/renewable-living.

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FROM PAGE 1

KOLLEL

small congregation. Adam Tilove, head of school at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island, is encouraging those who can to attend. "I want people at Ohawe Sholam to know they are not alone," he said.

On Sunday, May 29, a group will gather outside the Ohawe Sholam building to work on cleaning up and beautifying the grounds.

"The goal of Sunday is to bring together our community of all faiths, to create something beautiful out of something that was clearly an act of hatred, said Meredith Sinel, one of the organizers of the group. "We are starting at 9 a.m. Home Depot and other friends of the community are generously donating flowers, potting soil, hoses, sprinklers and other items. We want the outside of this building to reflect the love, faith, hope and connections that are made inside this building every day."



PHOTO | GORDON EIDES

Rabbi Raphie Schochet talks to the news media May 23.

Acts of kindness have been occurring since Rabbi Raphie Schochet discovered that the sign for the Kollel Center for Jewish Learning had been defaced. David Pliskin, president of the congregation, said he was "overwhelmed by the outpouring of support" on the part of the community.

At a May 23 news conference, the mayor of Pawtucket, Don Grebien, officially deemed the painting of a swastika on the Kollel sign outside the congregation on East Avenue a hate crime. Schochet, the leader of the Kollel, called the swastika "a symbol of bigots and bullies." He went on to say that this type of crime, which takes place in the middle of the night when nobody is watching, is "an act of cowardice" (an opinion shared by most speakers at the news conference). He said he believes that acceptance and peace are core principles of what it means to be American and called whoever defaced the sign "completely un-American."

Rabbi Sarah Mack, of Temple Beth-El in Providence and president of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island, said that the incident did not just spark a coming together of Jews in the area, but also created a space for the Christian and Muslim communities to show support as well. Mack said the collective community sends a stronger message than any individual's act of hate. In fact, Noreen Shaffi, a Muslim member of the local Sisterhood of Salaam and Shalom chapter, has already offered to pay for a new sign to stand in front of the building. The Pawtucket Public Works Department took the defaced sign away to see if it could be repaired.

Jeffrey Savit, president and CEO of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, referred to the recent Alliance mission to Budapest and Berlin, where he had visited a concentration camp the day after *Yom ha-Shoah*, Holocaust Remembrance Day. He said was troubled by the fact that only about a week after returning to Rhode Island, Nazi symbolism followed him.

The Pawtucket Police Department is investigating this crime, but they had no immediate suspect. They urged anybody with information to contact the Pawtucket Police at 401-727-9100.





Can you accumulate $1 million for retirement?

Like many people, you've probably made investment goals – but will you be able to reach them?

Say, for example, that you have determined that you would like to have $1 million in your investment portfolio by the time you retire. Will you be able to get there?


BARBARA KENERSON

In trying to accumulate $1 million – or any other amount – you should generally begin by considering how much you have saved now, how much you can contribute in the future, how much you might earn on your investments, and how long you have to accumulate funds.

Your current balance is your starting point – the more you have today, the less you'll need to contribute to your investment portfolio or earn on your investments to meet your goal.

Likewise, in general, the longer the time you have to save, the greater the opportunity you have to accumulate $1 million. If you have a sufficiently long time and a sufficiently large current balance, with adequate earnings you might be able to reach your goal without making any additional contributions. With a longer time horizon, you'll also have more time to recover if the value of your investments drops. If additional contributions are required to help you reach your goal, the more time you have to target your goal, the less you may have to contribute.

The key point here is the sooner you start making contributions, the better. If you wait too long and the time remaining to accumulate funds becomes too short, you might not be able to make the large contributions required to reach your goal. In such a case, you might consider extending the accumulation period, perhaps by delaying retirement.

Another important factor in reaching your goal is the rate of return. In general, the greater the rate of return that you earn on your investments, the more likely that you'll reach your investment goals. The greater the proportion of the investment portfolio that comes from earnings, the less you may need to contribute to the portfolio. Earnings generally benefit from longer time frames and compound rates of return, since returns are earned on any earlier earnings.

However, higher rates of return are generally associated with greater risk and the possibility of investment losses. It's important to choose investments that meet your time horizon and tolerance for risk. And be realistic in your assumptions. What rate of return is realistic given your current asset allocation and investment selection?

Of course, the more you can regularly contribute to your investment portfolio (e.g., monthly or yearly), the better your chances of reaching your $1 million investment goal, especially if you start contributing early and have a long time horizon.

Now that the primary factors that affect your chances of getting to $1 million have been reviewed, use the chart above to see several scenarios of how much you would need to save each year to reach the $1 million target.

Scenario	1	2
Target	$1,000,000	$1,000,000
Current balance	$450,000	$450,000
Years	15	10
ROR	6%	6%
Annual contribution	$0	$14,728
Scenario	**3**	**4**
Target	$1,000,000	$1,000,000
Current balance	$0	$0
Years	30	20
ROR	6%	6%
Annual contribution	$12,649	$27,185

Note: *This hypothetical example is not intended to reflect the actual performance of any investment. Actual results may vary. Taxes, fees, expenses, and inflation are not considered and would reduce the performance shown if they were included.*

NOTE: This hypothetical example is not intended to reflect the actual performance of any investment. Actual results may vary. Taxes, fees, expenses, and inflation are not considered and would reduce the performance shown if they were included.

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

Genesis Prize/JFN award grants $3.3M to programs for intermarried families

JTA – Some 28 projects to increase outreach to intermarried families will receive funding under a matching grants program between the Jewish Funders Network and the Genesis Prize.

The $3.3 million in grants for the Avenues to Jewish Engagement for Intermarried Couples and their Families program were announced May 22 in New York.

The program was launched in honor of Academy Award-winning actor Michael Douglas, recipient of the 2015 Genesis Prize for his commitment to Jewish values and the Jewish people. He pledged then to use the $1 million prize money to reach out to other Jews from intermarried families seeking a connection to the Jewish community, and announced grants to Hillel and the Jewish Funders Network.

"As someone who is not always welcomed in the Jewish community because my mother was not Jewish, I want to make sure that all those who desire to connect with Jewish culture and heritage have that opportunity," Douglas said in a statement when the grant was announced in August. "This fund will allow many organizations to continue, or to initiate, important work to engage intermarried couples and their children."

Douglas' prize was matched by a $1 million gift from philanthropist Roman Abramovich, creating a matching grant initiative that was administered by Jewish Funders Network.

Among the programs that received funding were Honeymoon Israel, which offers subsidized trips to Israel for couples with at least one Jewish partner early in their committed relationship; Jewish ArtEck, a summer camp in Berlin, Germany, open to Jews from intermarried families, and JCC Manhattan, which will establish Circles of Welcome, a program to engage intermarried couples and their families in Jewish life and community through mentor-led learning groups.



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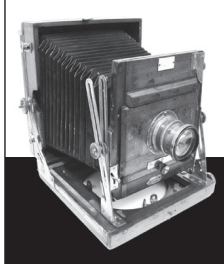
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Amsterdam to pay Jewish community $11M for Holocaust survivor taxes

JTA – The city of Amsterdam will give its Jewish community $11 million as compensation for taxes imposed on Holocaust survivors who returned home to the Dutch capital following World War II.

Upon their return, according to an article in The Telegraph on May 23, the survivors were made to pay a tax because their homes were left empty during the Holocaust. They also had to pay back taxes for the years they had been taken away from the city, as well as insurance fees.

The taxes were discovered by a student in 2013, and that year, Amsterdam Mayor Eberhard van der Laan said the city should "put it right," according to The Telegraph. On May 20, the city said it would pay the $11 million – an estimate of the total taxes paid by survivors following the war.

"Amsterdam has 5 million to 10 million euros in its coffers that it doesn't want, and we have no right to it, so we want to give it back to the Jewish community to be used for important projects," a spokesman for the mayor said, according to The Telegraph. "Finding the individual people or their relatives would be very costly and complex, and that is not the idea."

The city has suggested the money be put toward a Holocaust memorial monument or community programs.

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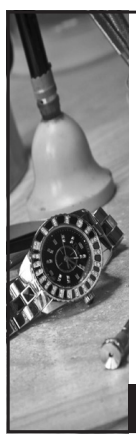
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Adele Cohen, 101

WARWICK, R.I. – Adele Cohen of Greenwich Farms died May 12 at Sunny View Nursing Home. She would have been 102 on May 15. She was the beloved wife of the late Leo Cohen. Born in Worcester, Mass., a daughter of the late Ira and Eva (Goldsmith) Bernstein, she had lived in Warwick for 14 years, previously living in Cranston and Providence. She was the owner of the former Monogram Shop in Providence. She was a former member of Temple Emanu-El and its sisterhood, and enjoyed volunteering at the temple library.

She was the devoted mother of Phyllis Freedman of Lincoln and Joseph Cohen and his wife, Suzanne, of Narragansett. Dear sister of three predeceased siblings. Loving grandmother of five. Cherished great-grandmother of seven.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Talking Books, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence, R.I. 02908.

Irma Miriam Friedlander, 91

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Irma Miriam Friedlander died May 12. She was the wife of the late Wilbert Friedlander. She was born in Providence, a daughter of the late Samuel and Dora (Sarser) Strashnick. She was a lifelong resident of Rhode Island.

She was a former member and founding family of Temple Shalom.

She is survived by her son Jeffrey Friedlander; sister Tillie Selenger; grandchildren Erica, Alicia, William, Brian and Derek; and daughter-in-law Ann Friedlander. She was the mother of the late Larry Friedlander.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the charity of your choice.

Mae Ruth Kahn, 92

CRANSTON, R.I. – Mae Ruth Kahn died on May 13. She was the loving wife of Melvin Kahn of Warwick for 70 years.



Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Samuel and Esther (Kresman) Woolf. She lived in Cranston for 50 years and then Warwick for the past three years.

Mae was a graduate of Hope High School. She and her husband Melvin, owned and operated two businesses: ACE Roofing & Sheet Metal Works and Mel's Hardware, both in Providence, for many years. She was later the office manager and bookkeeper at several companies in Providence.

She enjoyed traveling around the world on a number of trips with her husband. For many years in retirement, they enjoyed frequent summer days at the pool with family and friends at the Masonic Center in Buttonwoods. Her favorite times were when she was surrounded by her loving family.

She was a longtime member of the United Commercial Travelers, a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans, and past member of Temple Torat Yisrael.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her two sons and daughters-in-law, Ronald Kahn and his wife, Pamela, of Cranston; and Larry Kahn and his wife, Ellen, of Cranston. Her loving grandchildren are Amy Kahn; Joel Kahn and his wife, Carolyn; Seth Kahn and his wife, Dana; and Aaron Kahn and his wife, Rachel. Her great-grandchildren are Lily and Charlie Kahn. She was predeceased by her brothers Herbert Woolf and Morris Woolf.

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

Paul S. Gillson, 83

PALM BEACH GARDENS, FLA. – Paul S. Gillson, retired owner of Mt. Pleasant Hardware in Providence died May 16 peacefully, at his home in Palm Beach Gardens. He was the beloved husband of the late Barbara (Elman) Gillson.

Born in Jersey City, N.J., son of the late Morris and Henrietta (Goldman) Gillson, he was a graduate of Boston University. He and his late wife were former members of Valley Country Club in West Warwick and East Point Country Club in Palm Beach Gardens. In addition to golf, he enjoyed skiing, flying small planes and motorcycles. In his retirement he enjoyed reading and his cherished companion, his dog Lily.

He was the devoted father of Marc Gillson and his wife, Antoinette Gomes, of Cranston; Erica Rossman and her husband, Dr. Richard Rossman, of Sharon, Mass.; and Lisa Rubinstein and her husband, David, of Newton, Mass. Dear brother of George Gillson of Brooklyn, N.Y., Bryna Hellmann of Amsterdam, and Jan Bentley of London. Loving grandfather of Marshall, Geoffrey, Dana, Jessica, Corey, Rachel and Sydney. Cherished great-grandfather of Marcus.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 245 Waterman St., Providence, R.I. 02906.

Judith Robinson, 81

MANSFIELD, MASS.– Judith Robinson died May 14 at Sturdy Memorial Hospital. She was the beloved wife of the late Shayle Robinson. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, a daughter of the late Albert and Emma (Bash) Folgeman, she had lived in Mansfield for two years, previously living in Warwick.

She attended Ohio State University and was involved with the League of Women Voters.

She was the devoted mother of Jeffrey Robinson and his wife, Nancy, of Mansfield, Mass., Steven Robinson and his wife, Karen, of Warwick, and Nancy Cantor of Bluffton, S.C. Loving grandmother of Brad, Amy, Josh, Allison, Jaime, Melanie, Mitchell and Bryant. Cherished great-grandmother of Jameson and Skylar.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 245 Waterman St., Providence, R.I. 02906.

Marilyn Schlossberg, 92

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Marilyn (Fogel) Schlossberg died May 7. Married for 39 years, she was the wife of the late Harry Schlossberg. Born in East Greenwich, the daughter of the late Jacob and Lillian Louise (Posner) Fogel, she lived most of her life in Providence but lived the last 13 years at Laurelmead.



A graduate of the University of Rhode Island, she was a social worker for 50 years, starting at Butler Hospital and working at Miriam Hospital for 20 years, rising to become the director of Social Services. After leaving Miriam Hospital, she worked for many years at several area nursing homes.

She was a lifelong member of Temple Beth-El, and was active in its sisterhood. She remained active and enjoyed driving, laughing with friends, playing bingo and scrabble, eating on Federal Hill, tending to her garden, and visiting Newport.

She is survived by her son, Jon Schlossberg and his wife Jan of Palo Alto, Calif.; and her grandchildren, Sarah and Rachel. She was the sister of the late Josef Fogel.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Temple Beth-El General Fund.

Natalie Rosen Seigle, 96

SARASOTA, FLA. – Natalie Rosen Seigle died on May 11. She was the loving wife of the late Saul Seigle, who predeceased her at the age of 97 in 2012. Born in Providence, she was the daughter of the late Samuel and Gertrude Rosen. She was a resident of Providence, until retiring to Longboat Key, Fla. in 1985.



She attended Pembroke College (now Brown University), and graduated from Simmons College in 1944. She received a master's degree in English from the University of Rhode Island in 1965. An associate professor, she spent most of her career teaching business communications at Providence College. She was the author of the widely used textbook, "Dynamics of Business Communications," as well as numerous articles published in business communication journals.

As a retiree living in Longboat Key, she continued teaching for many years, first as the instructor for Writing Your Personal Memoir and later teaching Contemporary Israeli Women Writers at Temple Beth Israel.

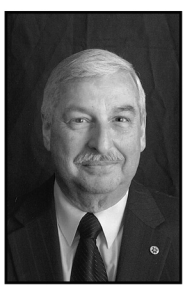
She was predeceased by her son David in 2004 and her sister Phyllis Brown in 2015. She is survived by her brother Harris Rosen; her son Richard and his wife Evelyn; her daughter Betsy and her husband Albyn Davis; her grandchildren Suzanne, Seth, Zachary and Adam; and great-grandchildren Sophia, Ari, Zoe, Isabella and Adrian.

Donations made may be made to the Natalie R. & Saul Seigle Scholarship Fund, Providence College, 1 Cunningham Square, Providence, R.I. 02918, or to the charity of your choice.

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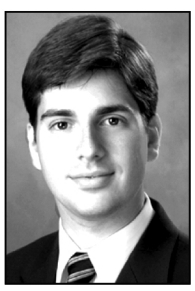
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NEWS BRIEFS

BDS is anti-constitutional and discriminatory, Spanish tribunal rules

JTA – Citing anti-discrimination laws, a Spanish constitutional tribunal recommended scrapping a municipality's motion calling for a boycott of Israel.

The Ministerio Fiscal, an advisory judicial authority charged with guaranteeing equality in the judiciary, made the recommendation in May, according to a statement by ACOM, a Spanish pro-Israel lobby. The recommendation came after ACOM sued the northern municipality of Gijon for declaring itself "a space free of Israeli apartheid."

The motion, passed in January, also said the city would not pay for the services of firms implicated in "human rights violations" in Palestinian territories. It said the city supports the BDS movement, which calls for boycotts, sanctions and divestment against Israel. Gijon, a city of 270,000 residents, is located 290 miles north of Madrid.

But the Ministerio Fiscal said in its nonbinding recommendation that the objectives of Gijon's boycott "violate the constitution as well as the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights." The motion's clauses, according to the tribunal, "jeopardize the fundamental right to equality without discrimination on the bases of appearance, ethnicity and religion."

A motion similar to the one passed in Gijon was defeated last week by a majority of delegates in Tarragona, an eastern Spanish city with 130,000 residents. Tarragona is the fifth Spanish municipality where BDS motions have failed in recent weeks, while motions supporting an Israel boycott have passed in four Spanish municipalities.

Spain's government has repeatedly expressed its opposition to BDS, which is illegal in neighboring France because it is deemed discriminatory. Britain's ruling party is formulating similar legislation, officials said earlier this year.

Long seen as a hub of anti-Israeli lobbying in Europe, Spain has recently taken actions that angered BDS promoters, including a January offer of $107,000 in compensation for damages caused to an Israeli West Bank university due to its exclusion from a scientific competition for political reasons.

Unlike the parliaments of Britain, France and other European countries, which have pledged unconditional support for Palestinian statehood, Spain's Congress in 2014 passed a nonbinding motion saying it would only support a Palestinian state reached by a peace agreement through talks with Israel – language that was hailed as a diplomatic victory for Israel and its supporters.

'Game of Thrones' welcomes Israeli actress-singer

JTA – Russian-Israeli actress Ania Bukstein recently joined the cast of the hit HBO series "Game of Thrones."

Bukstein, a Moscow native who immigrated to Israel at 8, plays Red Priestess Kinvara, debuting on the episode that aired May 22.

Bukstein, 33, is a household name in Israel for roles in shows and movies such as "Rabies," "False Flag" and "The Secrets."

According to the Times of Israel, Bukstein has "won broad praise" for the initial performance, with numerous mentions and videos appearing on YouTube, Twitter and Facebook.

A former model, Bukstein is also a pop vocalist and recently released her fourth single, "We Have a Chance."

"Game of Thrones," in its sixth season, is based on the fantasy book series by George R. R. Martin.

FROM PAGE 1

MEMORIAL

West Bay Community Jewish Center, who stood with families to offer support outside the Station nightclub during the tragedy, is now involved in Jewish participation in the memorial effort. At the time of the fire, he was spiritual leader of Temple Am David in Warwick. He has said that to his knowledge, no victims were Jewish, but that participation in the memorial effort is about helping those outside the Jewish community as well.

"That fire was devastating to all of us, especially those of us who live in Rhode Island and were here at that time. I believe – and I haven't heard otherwise – that none of the victims were of the Jewish faith… That doesn't matter," he said. "We're supposed to do *tikkun olam*; we're supposed to repair the world. When we see something that is wrong, we're supposed to act. We're a light unto other nations. Doesn't mean we're better than anybody else, but we have to be that beacon of light."

Throughout Rhode Island, 512 religious communities have been notified of the memorial effort. According to Barry, all have said they're willing to participate in some way.

Perlman says that several congregations have voiced support for fundraising initiatives and/or providing healing, including Temple Beth-El and Temple Emanu-El, in Providence.

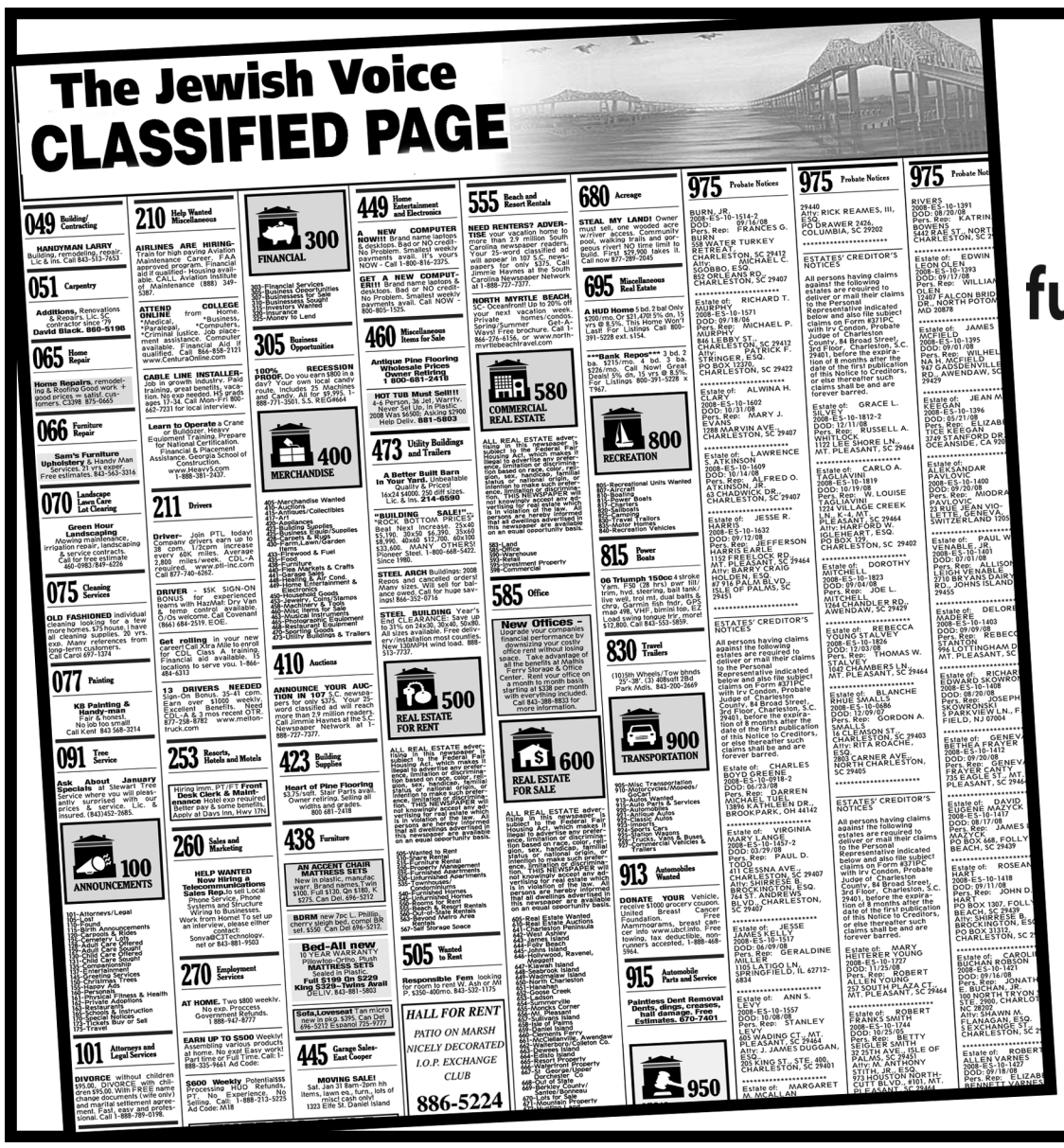
Rabbi Sarah Mack, of Temple Beth-El, and president of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island, said, "The Station nightclub fire impacted all Rhode Islanders. This is an opportunity to memorialize the lives lost. The faith-based response allows each religious community to remember this dark moment in our states' history and honor the spirit of community that contributed to healing and consolation.

"The effort is largely coordinated by the Council of Churches, supported by the Board of Rabbis and each congregation is sharing with members and participating in their own way."

Fundraising is expected to go on until the Station Fire Memorial Foundation's $2 million goal is reached; for the month of May, faith communities are being asked to "raise funds using their own traditions," according to a flier sent out by Rabbi Perlman.

"If we could find ways to do that," he says, referring to coming together in pursuit of a common good, "not just at the Station or because of tragic events like this … what a world we'd have."

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


The Jewish Voice
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REMEMBER THE PAST

From the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

The many lives of the Howell Street *shul*

BY JOSHUA JASPER

Researchers, while searching our extensive collections for information about relatives or distant ancestors, often ask me supposedly "quick" questions as an aside. A common one is "What is the oldest ...?"

This is the complex story of the oldest synagogue building on the East Side of Providence.

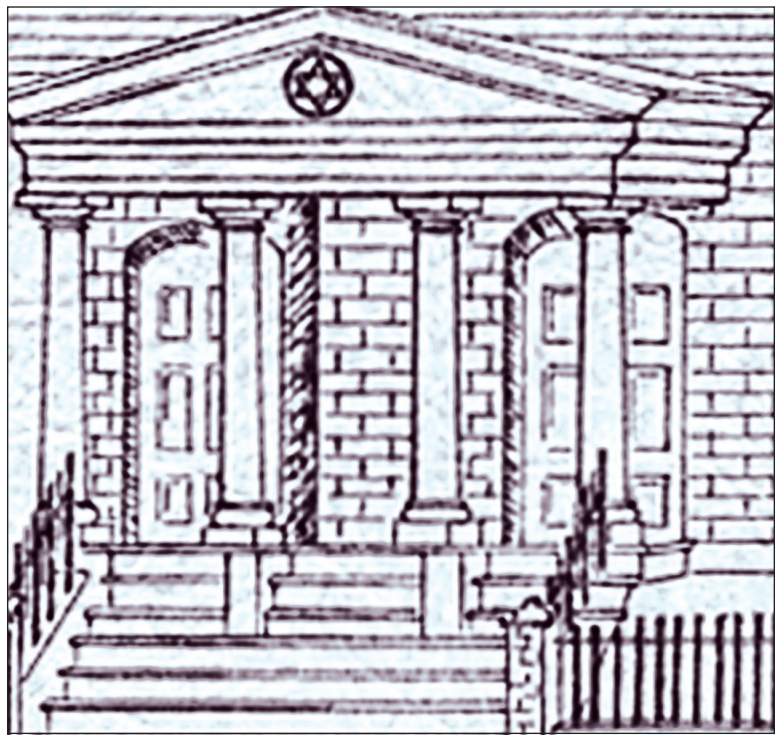
As those who attended our annual meeting in April learned from Rachael Rosner's wonderful discussion on early East Side history, the first synagogue on the East Side was Congregation Ahavath Sholom, on the corner of Howell and Scott streets, close to North Main Street. It began in 1905-1906, and many of the founding members later went on to found Providence's Temple Emanu-El in 1924. The founders included the Rose, Siegal, Fain, Temkin and Alper families. At the time, the Jewish community on the East Side was clustered around Benefit Street and Lippitt Hill (where University Heights is today).

The Howell Street *shul* was located in the old wooden Fourth Baptist Church building, and it took six months to finalize the purchase and renovate the structure to meet the needs of the congregation. The founding members raised $2,000 to alter the building for Orthodox Jewish practice, and took out a $10,000 mortgage to buy the building. They wanted to create a synagogue, Hebrew school, and community center for the Jews who were increasingly moving to Lippitt Hill.



PHOTO | FRED KELMAN, COURTESY RIJHA

Outside the Howell Street shul.



A drawing of the shul from the 35th anniversay book in 1940.

Even in 1940, Ahavath Sholom could claim in its anniversary book that its "beautiful Synagogue is among the largest in New England."

While it was a traditional Orthodox synagogue, the earliest minute books, now in the RIJHA archive, are in English rather than Yiddish and some of the earliest rabbis were clean-shaven. While perhaps unsurprising today, these two facts were very unusual for Orthodox synagogues of this period. It reflected on the membership and the founders, who were largely young first-generation Americans, children of families firmly established in the Providence Jewish community as well as the larger business environment of Providence. These individuals wanted to move a little closer to the richer parts of Providence, but maintain and build Jewish institutions in their new neighborhood.

At first, the spiritual leadership was undertaken by Rabbi David Bachrach, a major leader of the Providence Jewish community since 1899. But the biggest change and excitement came in 1939, when the soft-spoken Rabbi Morris Silk became the rabbi of the Howell Street *shul*. Along with Rabbi Silk came his wife, Diana Silk, a forceful personality who was to become a community institution in her own right. With their arrival, energy and initiatives started in earnest at the Ahavath Sholom Synagogue and Hebrew Free School.

Rabbi Silk made the growth of the congregation a priority. From 1940 to 1949, the congregation undertook to build a new Ahavath Sholom on Rochambeau Avenue and Camp Street. When construction began in 1949, they only had enough money to build the first floor of the two-floor design. With the recent Holocaust and Jewish preservation at the front of their minds, they chose to build the Hebrew School first, rather than the main chapel. For many years, some in the community called it the "half a *shul*."

With the death of Rabbi Silk in 1952, the main congregation on Rochambeau moved toward the Conservative movement with Rabbi Reuven Siegel. By the time the main sanctuary was built in the 1960s, the congregation was a Conservative synagogue called Temple Beth Sholom. It later went back to Orthodox practice, in the 1980s, but the top floor still retains the Conservative architectural feel.

But that's not the end of the story of the Howell Street *shul*. At the time of the urban renewal of University Heights by individuals such as Irving Fain in 1960, a small group of Holocaust survivors were using the old *shul* building for services. They called the synagogue Mishkon Tfiloh, and they thought the idea that the city would take the old building, and pay good money for it, was "a miracle."

After two years of holding services in the current Jewish Community Center, on Elmgrove Avenue in Providence, the congregants were able to cajole a homeowner on Summit Avenue into selling his house to them. The city gave permission to remove the beautiful ark from the Howell Street *shul*, which was installed in the main sanctuary of Mishkon Tfiloh's new home.

While the name, families, and even the ark of the Howell Street *shul* remain an integral part of the East Side Jewish community today, the building itself was torn down as part of the University Heights urban renewal. It stood where the Whole Foods parking lot stands today.

JOSHUA JASPER is the new librarian/archivist for the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association. Beginning June 1, the RIJHA's office and library will have new hours. For more information, call 401-331-1360 or email info@rijha.org.





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Sisterhood marks Holocaust Remembrance Day



Cheryl Greenfield

In honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, Temple Beth-El Sisterhood president Cheryl Greenfield presented a PowerPoint tour of the Teen March of the Living 2015 from Auschwitz to Birkenau.

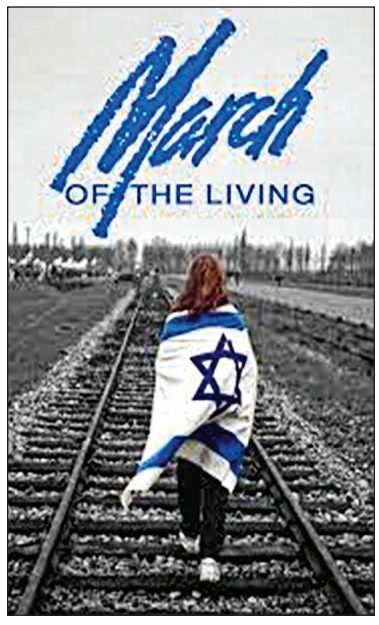
A pitch-in dinner of Israeli dishes was enjoyed before the show at the home of Elaine Sandy.



Judy Goldberg and Robin Krieger, WRJ regional rep.



Liz Willey and Linda Sinel





Sisterhood members



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ENGAGEMENT – Mr. and Mrs. Marty Kaufman announce the engagement of their granddaughter Rachael Kayla, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Morrill of Virginia, to Michael Morris, son of Lester and Rhonda Morris also of Virginia. Nuptials will be performed on Sept. 3.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY – Ida and Tom Brown, above, of Hopatcong, N.J. (Ida Bochner-Brown is from Rhode Island) celebrated their 25th anniversary on a European River cruise from Vienna to Munich. Here they are visiting the Nymphenburg Palace in Munich and, as always, The Jewish Voice accompanies them on all their travels.

PHOTO | LEVINE FAMILY

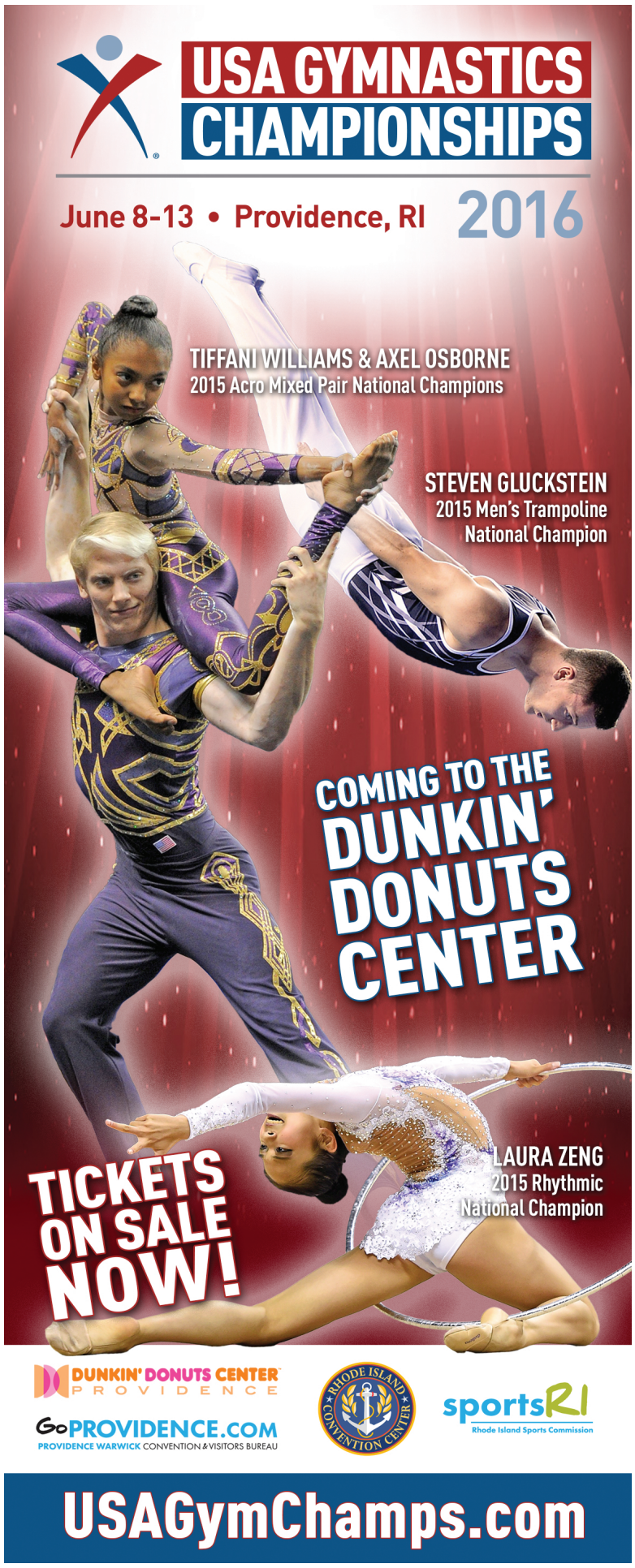
Jacob with his grandparents, Philip and Bette Levine.

BAR MITZVAH – Jacob Ian Levine was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on April 16 in a ceremony at the Casino at Roger Williams Park. Jacob is the son of Lisa and Jonathan Levine of Coventry. His brothers are Ryan and Benjamin.

Jacob has taken his studies very seriously and has genuinely included the Torah in his heart and his life. His parents are thrilled to know Jacob is sincere in his faith and religion.

Jacob's *tzedakah* project was influenced by spending time with his grandfathers and great-grandfather, enjoying their company and talking about sports. Jacob has chosen to volunteer to assist the elderly, reading the sports pages to them or just chatting and keeping them company. Jacob wants to make a difference in their lives in a positive way.

The family, members of West Bay Community Jewish Center, is grateful to Rabbi Richard Perlman, Susan Sugerman, the Hebrew School principal, and the dedicated teachers whose patience and encouragement has had a significant impact on Jacob's life, well beyond the classroom.





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