the JEWISH VOICE

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YEAR IN REVIEW

RENOVATIONS CONTINUE AT THE DWARES JCC

BY KARA MARZIALI
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For months, visitors to the Jewish Alliance's Dwares JCC have grown accustomed to seeing signs of construction around the building. Now the transformation is in high gear.

Extensive renovations started in March and behind-the-scenes work has been going on ever since. The outside steel canopy structure and contemporary glass doors have been installed, and concrete for the stairs and handicap ramp has been poured. There will be well-appointed front and back entrances instead of the five now in use, allowing for a strong focus on hospitality.

The Salmanson upper lobby framing and drywall are underway, and an elevator at the front entrance is nearly finished. The rear entrance has also been framed, and some of the finish work has begun. The new lobby space is designed to allow visitors to engage with each other and have better access to the activities going on in the building. The upper lobby will include a contemporary welcome desk, ample seating and digital signage to display information about programming and events.

Renovations to the Baxt Social Hall, which has an adjacent Kosher kitchen and stage area, have begun. The approximately 4,500-square-foot space will be suitable for receptions, parties, seminars, performances, movies and

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PHOTO | BRIAN SULLIVAN

Work is well underway in the upper lobby. The view looks toward the entrance.



Attorney Kenneth R. Feinberg asks Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg about her Jewish journey.

GA offers Jewish journey to participants

BY MARTY COOPER

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Some 3,000 people, representing the Jewish community from across the United States, gathered in the nation's capital Nov. 13-15 for the Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly (GA). This year's theme was "Jewish Journeys Start at the Federation." Attendees went on "journeys" related to the concerns and needs of the community they serve and represent, from philanthropy and leadership to Israel and social justice.

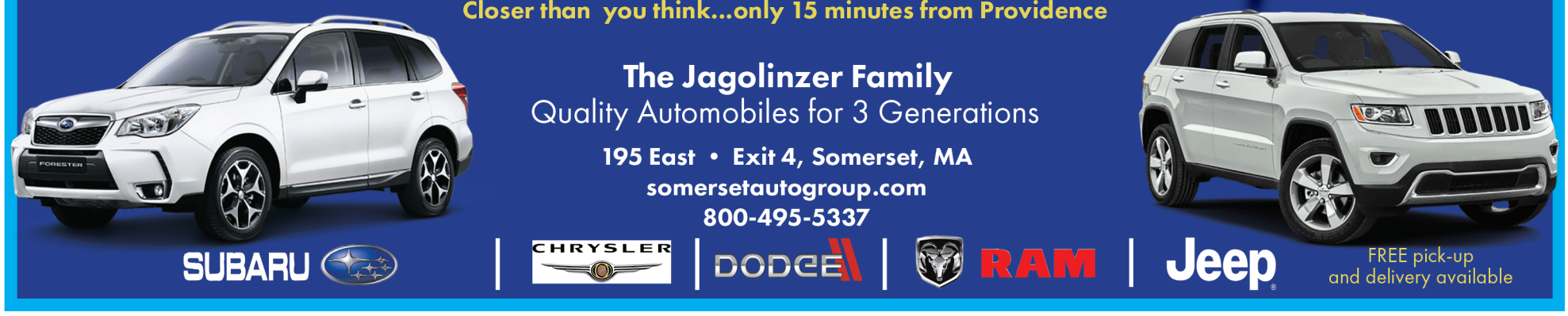
Less than a week after the national elections, there was much concern about the outcome. The organizers of the GA took into consideration the election when planning the conference. Throughout the conference, there were workshops and breakouts that included discussions on the election. One thing was certain: Nothing could be certain. The conclusion of most discusions: We will have to wait and see what happens in the coming months. Adding fuel to the fire was the announcement of the appointment of Steve Bannon, a controversial "Alt-Right" figure, as "chief strategist" for the Trump administration.

There was much discussion throughout the conference on the direction of America and Israel. This included a plenary with Chuck Todd of NBC's "Meet the Press." Todd moderated two separate panels. Topics included the recent election, social justice issues and, of course, Israel.

Perhaps the highlight of the conference was the brief interview with Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. Affectionately known as "The Notorious RGB," she spoke about the outcome of the election as well as the need to move forward in choosing the next Supreme Court justice. She told the audience that she would do her best to remain healthy for a long time to come.

Breakout sessions were de-

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THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE

"We always have the capacity to continue learning, growing and contributing ..."

Jewish women inspired to 'Count Your Blessings' at Tichyeh Schochet conference

BY LEAH C. BOURAMIA

Against a backdrop of hushed laughter and murmurs of agreement, the Brown RISD Hillel chapel nearly overflowed with women, largely from the Orthodox community, friends and neighbors side by side, many furiously taking notes.

The event, on Nov. 20, was The Tichyeh Schochet Memorial Conference for Jewish Women, and the keynote speaker was Ruchi Koval, of Cleveland, a certified parenting coach, motivational speaker, musician and author.



In her keynote address, an animated Koval explained the ways Jewish women can be like Elijah the Prophet on their life journeys: Doing external work to help transform who we are and how we relate to Torah, and influencing our community by managing facial expressions, providing validation and completing easy *mitzvot*.

Koval said "sweating the small stuff" can be a tool to bring light and kindness to places where our stress, our impatience and, yes, the simple fact of our humanity may make it, at times, difficult.

In her overflowing breakout session, "No Judges, No Grudges," Koval said, "The question really is, what kind of life do we want to lead?" She went on to illustrate examples of beginner, intermediate and advanced skills that can redefine the assumptions and negative attitudes we create about others.

Beginning level is where we imagine a backstory to a situation, one that makes the person we are inclined to judge negatively look like a hero. For example, "My sister overspent at the store, and is once again in trouble with money" could be reimagined as "My sister overspent at the store because she is so busy being such a present and loving mother to her children that she happened to forget her budget."

Intermediate level would be if we are bold enough to actually decide that a person's perceived weakness is in fact, when viewed from another angle, a strength. "My sister overspent at the store because she is so generous in her gift giving. How lucky I am to have such a giving sister!"



PHOTO | E. BRESLER

Mrs. Ruchi Koval opened the conference with a motivating talk about how every person can make a huge difference – by making small, positive changes in how we act.

Finally, only the bravest, most committed among us can execute advanced-level skills, wherein we decide to ignore our negative perceptions and instead focus on the beauty of the person within. Koval used the example of a dirty windowpane – the wise among us, she said, can learn to see through the dirty window to view the amazing scene on the other side of the glass. Suddenly, the dirt on the window seems minor, because we have chosen to see the beauty beyond it.

LEAH BOURAMIA is an educator who lives in Warwick.



Rabbi Uri Regev speaks on religious freedom and equality in Israel

BY FRAN OSTENDORF
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Rabbi Uri Regev wants you to think about freedom of religion in ways you might not have thought about it before.

He's an advocate for religious freedom and equality for Jews in Israel. This is not an issue that might be at the forefront of your thoughts, amid the security concerns and economic challenges faced by the Jewish state, but Regev thinks it should be. To him, this is an issue of paramount importance for the survival of Israel and its connection to Jews in the Diaspora.

"This is the way to strengthen Israel as a true democratic state," he said. "This is the most pro-Israel stand you can take."

Regev travels in the United States, and elsewhere, sharing his views about the importance of equality and religious freedom for Israeli Jews.

Recently, he brought his message to Temple Beth-El, in Providence, and Temple Beth El, in Fall River. In Providence, he spoke to more than two dozen community members at a breakfast on Nov. 7.

Regev insists this is not a political issue. In fact, he says it is a nonpartisan issue that reaches across denominational lines and is vital to the future of Israel and all Jews.



Rabbi Uri Regev speaks at Temple Beth-El in Providence.

A native Israeli, Regev is president and founder of Hiddush, an organization that aims for "freedom of religion and conscience" as well as "full social and political equality without distinction on the basis of religion" in Israel.

The group reaches out to all sides, says Regev. Hiddush "believes that fully realizing the promise of religious freedom in Israel will strengthen the nation as a democracy and as a Jewish state and will bolster Jewish peoplehood and Israel/Diaspora relationships."

Because Hiddush is not affiliated with any political factions, streams of Judaism or secular groups, everyone can feel equally comfortable embracing its mission, said Regev. "There is no hidden agenda. It's about freedom of religion and equality."

The former president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, Regev is a rabbi, an attorney and the founder of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC), which works to advance civil rights in Israel.

Much of the group's advocacy centers on marriage equality, long an issue in Israel, where only Orthodox marriages are recognized.

Regev points out that many of the Jews from the former Soviet Union who live in Israel cannot marry there because they are not recognized as Jews by the chief rabbinate, even though they may have had a Jewish mother. This also affects Reform or Conservative Jews who make aliyah.

"The majority of American Jews today may not be able to marry in Israel," he said, adding that most Israeli Jews support freedom of marriage, a recent survey found.

At 68 years old, Israel is still debating what it should be, Regev said.

"We have this challenging vision of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state. The challenge continues as to what that means," he said.

FRAN OSTENDORF is the editor of The Jewish Voice.



coming soon

CRISP all the way through or just on the outside? Thickly grated potatoes or more on the mashed side? With sweet potato, zucchini, green onions or plain?

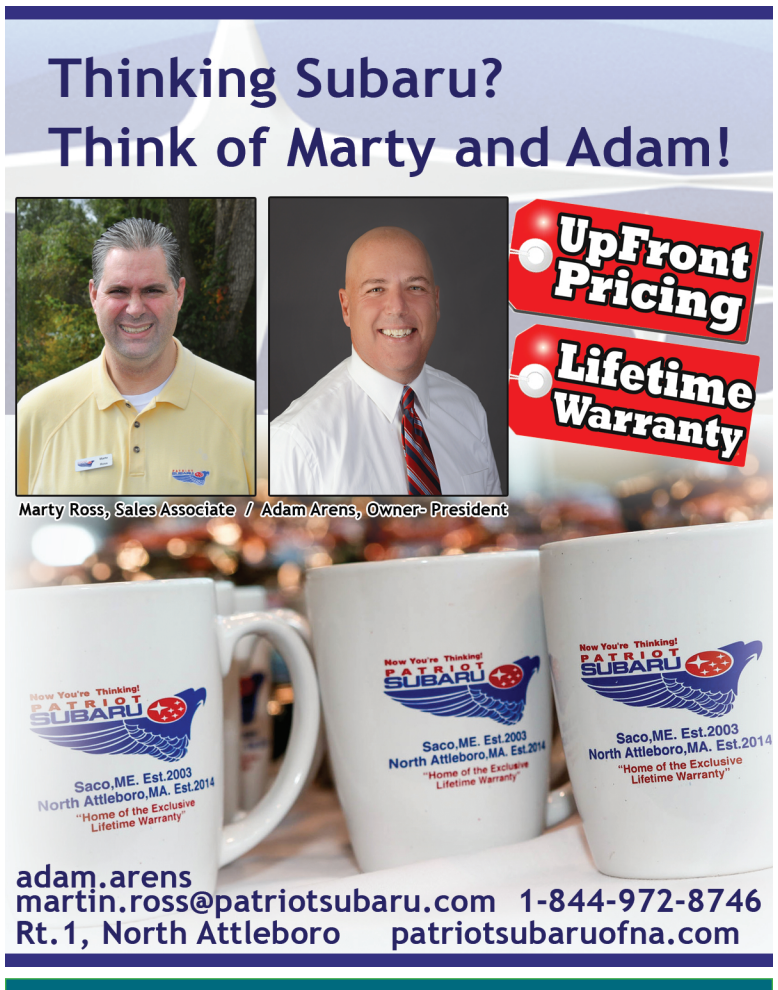
How do you like your latkes?

We want to know. Send us your recipes, your thoughts and comments. Maybe we'll put them in the paper. But hurry, Hanukkah won't wait for procrastinators.

Our Dec. 9 and Dec. 23 issues are just waiting for your best Hanukkah recipes. Or tell us about a neighbor's, friend's or your bubbe's best recipe. We'll call and check it out.

Oh, and if you don't eat latkes for Hanukkah, what do you eat in your family?

Send your recipe to: editor@jewishallianceri.org. Or send a note to Editor, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906.



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Warwick native turning heads with sunflower study

BY SAM SERBY

Warwick native Benjamin Blackman has made quite a name for himself in the field of evolutionary science.

In August, Blackman's article, "Follow the Sun," was published in Science Magazine.

"Follow the Sun" is about solar tracking, the movement of flowers or the leaves of plants in response to the direction of the sun. Blackman's study focused on this phenomenon as it relates to sunflowers, making several important discoveries.

"The plants begin at dawn with their stems facing east, where the sun is rising, growing and bending over the course of the day such that it tracks the position of the sun and the sky. The stems move to the west when the sun is setting and, at night, the plant again reorients itself to face east in anticipation of dawn," he explains.

Blackman described driving by a big field of beautiful blooming sunflowers, observing how all of them were facing the same direction.

"That direction they are facing is toward east. What we were able to show in the paper was that they end up facing toward east because directional movement toward a light source is mainly coming from one direction. That 'phototropic' response is strongest in the morning and weaker at other times of day."

Blackman says one of the most important findings of his study involved the flowers' circadian clock.

"This internal rhythm that is generated in plants' cells plays a key role in driving that nocturnal reorientation. Our study shows that this internal rhythm is what accelerates plant growth on the west side of the stem and represses it on the east side of the stem, such that you get that bending back toward east during the night," he said.

"With this study, we were able to learn more about how plants function and interact with the environment successfully."



Ben Blackman

Blackman, 37, said he was delighted to have his research published in Science Magazine.

"To have my work reach that really broad scientific audience is fantastic, and it is a validation that what we are doing is really interesting and that we are finding things that are advancing our knowledge of nature and how it operates," he said.

Growing up in Warwick, Blackman was very involved in the Jewish community, belonging to Temple Sinai in Cranston during his junior high and high school years. There, he volunteered as a student teacher, served as a leader in the temple's youth group, and actively participated in NFTY Northeast, an organization that brings together young Jews to learn and grow, both as Jews and as individuals.

"Those were all great experiences for me when I was growing up," Blackman said.

His love of science began in a course at Winman Junior High School. He was so intrigued by the biology class that he decided to pursue a program in the study of genetics the following summer. "Going forward, I always had an eye toward biology," he said.

He went on to attend Toll Gate High School (Class of '97), where his love for science only grew stronger.

"At Toll Gate, I took multiple years of biology, chemistry, physics, and calculus, and I also participated in several competitive academic extracurricular activities. During this time, my excitement about science grew as I benefited from the dedication and encouragement of many teachers and coaches," he said.

Following high school, Blackman headed west to Stanford University, where he earned an undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences (Class of '01).

From 2001 to 2003, he was a technician in the lab of David Kingsley at Stanford. During this time he contributed to studies of the skeletal evolution of stickleback fish, a small, unique fish that evolves and mutates quickly when traveling between saltwater and freshwater. He then entered graduate school, earning his Ph.D. in Evolutionary Biology and Ecology from Indiana University, Bloomington, in 2009.

After graduating, Blackman was a post-doctoral scholar at Duke University, where he studied how populations of the common monkey flower adapt to local habitats.

Blackman accepted a teaching position at UVA in August of 2012. He taught Ecology of Evolution and Development and a graduate seminar titled "Speciation" at the university until December of 2015.

From UVA, Blackman moved back west, to the San Francisco area, to start a new position, which he currently holds, as an associate professor of the Evolutionary Process at the University of California, Berkeley.

Blackman attributes much of his success to his mentors along his scientific journey, from the junior high school teacher who sparked his interest in biology to those he met during his college and graduate school years.

Blackman says being Jewish also played a role in his success. "One of the major lessons that I took away from my Jewish education in Rhode Island was that part of being Jewish is studying, questioning and explaining, and I think, in part, this influenced me and how I went into science. That is what I do every day. I always want to learn more and am constantly asking questions."

SAM SERBY, of East Greenwich, attended Temple Sinai, in Cranston. He is a recent graduate of Johnson & Wales University.



PHOTO | RUTH HORTON

Global day of Jewish learning

Nov. 20 was a day to celebrate learning and the earth as part of a worldwide Jewish effort.

At Temple Torat Yisrael, programs included study and hands-on learning. Sponsored by The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island partnering with Torat Yisrael, The Nature Conservancy, Ganei Beantown and PJ Library.



PHOTO | FRAN OSTENDORF

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Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks to the GA.

FROM PAGE 1 | GENERAL ASSEMBLY

signed to meet specific interests of the diverse groups of attendees. Topics included Hillel, social justice such as race relations and confronting anti-Semitism, as well as disabilities and inclusion. Attendees could focus on exploring Judaism and Jewish education. They could concentrate on philanthropy and new philanthropic strategies as well as on meeting the needs of the Jewish community. One particular focus was engaging the younger Jewish community, including millennials.

The issue of Israel and peace in the region was ongoing throughout the GA. There were three sessions on Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS). It was pointed out that a number of states, including Rhode Island, have passed legislation to combat BDS. BDS and anti-Semitism on college campuses across the country were a significant concern.

Pluralism in Israel was another topic raised and discussed in a few breakout sessions. It was even discussed when Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the conference. Implementing an equalitarian prayer space as well as civil marriage as it relates to faith were a concern. In his brief remarks, the prime minister said it would take time to find common ground, but the country is moving forward on a settlement of the issues.

Approximately 75 GA attendees stayed an extra day to meet with the Israel Action Network (IAN). The purpose of this one-and-a-half-day meeting was to discuss the issues of BDS as well as campus concerns and anti-Semitism.

Next year the GA is scheduled for Nov. 12-14 in Los Angeles California.

MARTY COOPER is the community relations director for the Jewish Alliance.



PHOTO | STEPHANIE HAGUE

Rosh Hodesh Committee members, left to right, Judy Robbins, Sherry Cohen, Cheryl Greenfeld Teverow, Toby London, Maybeth Lichaa, Rabbi Elyse Winick. Not pictured: Kit Haspel, Marcia Hirsch, Barbara Sheer.

Rosh Hodesh program features the meaning of rituals

BY STEPHANIE HAGUE
shague@jewishallianceri.org

"What rituals do we practice that give our life meaning?"

That was the question posed by Rabbi Elyse Winick as she opened the fall Rosh Hodesh program hosted by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. Winick, the Jewish chaplain at Brandeis University, was the guest speaker at the Nov. 7 program held at the Dwares Jewish Community Center. She shared an insightful text-based discussion on Jewish ritual, specifically the use of the *mikveh*, the ritual bath. Participants explored texts from the Torah and the Talmud that helped the group to better understand the role of the *mikveh* in life-cycle events and relationships, and then had a conversation about the role the *mikveh* can play in modern Jewish life for individuals of all ages and marital statuses.

Winick was introduced by Rosh Hodesh Committee Chair Maybeth Lichaa, who spoke about the essential work of the Alliance and the impact of attendees' donations to the Alliance Annual Campaign. Lichaa shared the story of an individual who has been a recipient of services through the Living on the Edge initiative, and who is now giving back as a volunteer in the community.

The Alliance hosts two Rosh Hodesh programs every year. The next program is scheduled for April 4 at noon at Temple Beth-El in Providence and features Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman. For more information, contact Danielle Germanowski at dgermanowski@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 109.

STEPHANIE HAGUE is the philanthropy officer at the Jewish Alliance.

Adults can learn Hebrew at Temple Sinai

Temple Sinai in Cranston is offering two levels of Hebrew study using a curriculum designed for adult learners. This should empower adults to read and understand prayers and passages from the Torah in the original Hebrew and allow them to participate more fully in religious services. Many adult learners have found that the study of Hebrew deepens their relationship with the Hebrew Bible and the prayer book, and invites exploration of the wider world of Jewish life and thought.

Shalav Aleph (Level One) provides a firm grounding in the Hebrew alphabet, the vowels and basic Hebrew reading skills. *Shalav Bet* (Level Two) enables the student to develop additional skills in reading, grammar and translation, and introduces key vocabulary from the prayer book and the Torah. Daytime and evening classes are available, based on demand so that a minimum class size can be maintained. Cost of each course, to be taught by Catherine Walters, is $18.

Registration is now open for a new *Shalav Bet* class scheduled for Thursday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m., beginning Dec. 8 at Temple Sinai.

For more information on adult Hebrew offerings or to register for a class, contact Catherine at 401-419-7698 or email margalit_rut@hotmail.com.

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Children color my world



EDITOR

FRAN OSTENDORF

One of the things that makes this job different from most newspaper jobs is the presence of children. Because of the location of our offices at the Dwares Jewish Community Center, we see children of all ages on a daily basis.

We are on the same hall as the afterschool programs at the Eides Family J-Space. We are in the same building as the David C. Isenberg Family Early Childhood Center (ECC). And there are many other programs taking place in the building that bring in children from all over Rhode Island.

When I started as editor, our offices were adjacent to the ECC rooms. Each day at noon, the sounds of "Puff the Magic Dragon" came wafting through the walls from the room next door. When I went to photograph a freshly remodeled classroom, I got pulled into a game of "trucks" with several toddlers.

Fast forward to our move to the main floor of the JCC. Now I can walk down the hall and see toddlers with their parents and grandparents arriving for Rock-a-Baby. Sometimes I peek into the room where Rock-a-Baby is held: There's nothing like seeing the little ones dancing to music.

My own children are grown now but I still remember bringing them to "baby gym" at the JCC. They spent many hours in the ECC and at afterschool classes.

Seeing the children here every day puts a smile on my face and makes me appreciate the vitality of the next generation.

The JCC is filled with people of all ages. The newspaper tends to have an older readership. But interacting with the children reminds me of how important it is to nurture the sandbox set.

David C. Isenberg saw that too. The entrepreneur, philanthropist and family man saw a need in the preschool and jumped in to assist. First, he helped modernize the aging playground. Then he donated funds to make the school facility the best it could be.

Isenberg lived to see the fruits of his philanthropy and the many children who benefited from his generosity. He died last week after a four-year battle with cancer, but The David C. Isenberg Family Early Childhood Center continues to renovate classrooms and extend Isenberg's vision for future generations.

It's a joy to watch these children and all the life and activity they bring to our community. We pass them in the hallways, read to them at story time and generally share in their happiness with learning.

Once a year, we focus special attention on children from first to eighth grade through our annual Hanukkah contest, which we cosponsor in partnership with the Touro Fraternal Association. It's a joy to see how this new generation illustrates the true meaning of Hanukkah. This year, the contest theme is Hanukkah *tzedakah* (charity).

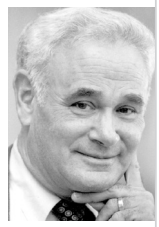
Judges for this year's contest will be a member of the Touro Fraternal Association, a member of The Jewish Voice's staff, and one or two staff members of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

Please encourage your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors to enter this year's contest. There are wonderful prizes and the winners' names are published in the Voice and at jvhri.org.

You can find the contest rules and entry form on Page 27 or go to jvhri.org or tourofraternal.org for more information and to download the contest entry form.

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TO STAY CURRENT
WITH LOCAL JEWISH NEWS

The world needs more peace-builders like Issa Jaber and Rabbi Kronish



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

Abu Ghosh, Israel, is a town of approximately 7,000 Palestinian Arabs 6 miles west of Jerusalem. Its roots can be traced back to about 6,000 B.C.E., making the site one of the oldest places of human habitation in Israel. I was recently told that this was where people first learned to domesticate goats.

The Palestinian Arabs of Abu Ghosh have a long history of friendly relations with the Jewish residents of towns in the surrounding Jerusalem district. Arabs and Jews alike insist that the best hummus in the world is made in Abu Ghosh – and the town holds the Guinness World Record for the largest tub of hummus ever produced, four and a half tons!

On Nov. 2, my wife Sandy and I had the uniquely broadening experience of sitting down to dinner with the mayor of Abu Ghosh, Issa Jaber, at Barrington's Blue Water Bar & Grill. Also joining us for dinner were Issa's wife, Amal, my colleague Rabbi Ron Kronish, and his wife, Amy. Our animated conversation bounced back and forth between English and modern Hebrew.

Rabbi Andrew Klein of Barrington's Temple Habonim had arranged this dinner because I have known Rabbi Kronish since the late 1960s, when the two of us were studying for ordination at the New York School of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Ordained in 1973, Kronish went on to earn a doctorate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He and his family made *aliyah* in 1979, settling in Jerusalem, where he, his wife, and two of his three daughters live to this very day.

In 1991, Kronish founded the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel, and he served as its executive director until he retired last year. It was in the context of his work fostering understanding and cooperation among Israel's Muslims, Christians and Jews that Kronish came to develop a deep and abiding friendship with Issa Jaber, who spent most of his working life as an educator before becoming mayor of Abu Ghosh.

All the peacemakers in the world with all of their pieces of paper called treaties cannot repair the wounds of the human heart; that urgent task is for the peace-builders.

After dinner, we made the short drive to Temple Habonim, where the Israeli rabbi and the Israeli Muslim mayor spoke to a group of about 40 attentive men and women. For the first 45 minutes or so, Kronish and Jaber held the floor, alternating their presentations at the microphone. To begin, each of them presented a five-minute bio, explaining what in his life created his commitment to interreligious work. Then each of the men shared in some detail their attempts to foster genuine cooperation among Israel's Muslims, Christians and Jews.

During the final 45 minutes, Kronish and Jaber responded to a number of thoughtful and perceptive questions from the audience.

Kronish was careful to emphasize that both he and Jaber were involved in building peace, not making peace. According to Kronish and Jaber, making peace is what politicians do; they sign "pieces" of paper (pun intended) called treaties, which provide formal structures within which peaceful societies may – or may not – develop.

In contrast, it is people like Kronish and Jaber – social workers, educators, clergy, community organizers – who help build peace among individuals and communities. They seek to accomplish their goals through carefully chosen person-to-person activities in which Arabs and Jews learn to respect each other, to value the dignity of the "other," to see the face of the "other." The ultimate aim of such activities is for the "other" to cease to be "other."

Though this work of building peace is often difficult and frustrating, it is absolutely necessary if the efforts of the political peacemakers are to yield sustained and tangible results.

Toward the end of his presentation, Jaber told of an incident that illustrates the tragic challenges to building peace. Two brothers from Abu Ghosh were working at the crowded Machane Yehuda market in Jerusalem. Suddenly, one of the young men heard a bomb go off in the section of the market where his brother was working. As he ran toward the explosion – which killed his brother – he was attacked by an enraged mob of Jews, who beat him to within an inch of his life because he happened to fit the Arab stereotype (it was an Arab suicide bomber who had caused the murderous explosion).

Jaber went on to say that the parents of the bomb victim, as well as the surviving brother, chose to foreswear revenge, to accept the bitter reality, and to move on to the work of building peace between Palestinians and Jews; they chose to honor their murdered son and brother with a constructive, life-affirming response to violence.

All the peacemakers in the world with all of their pieces of paper called treaties cannot repair the wounds of the human heart; that urgent task is for the peace-builders.

As I was leaving Temple Habonim at the end of the evening, I felt that I had been in the presence of two heroes – two men who have devoted their lives, without headlines or fanfare, to turning the heads and the hearts of their communities to what is most noble in our human nature. Mayor Jaber and Rabbi Kronish are truly builders of peace. It is no exaggeration to state that the world cannot survive without men and women like them.

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

OUR MISSION

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

COLUMNS | LETTERS POLICY

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

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

Statement from the Community Relation Council on the election

Last Tuesday [Nov. 8], the citizens of our great state and nation elected officials to lead us with wisdom and compassion and to guide and properly shape our country.

The Community Relations Council of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island congratulates all who were victorious including President-Elect Donald J. Trump. We also thank those who ran for office but were defeated.

Much of the rhetoric spoken during this campaign season has been hateful. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: Only love can do that." We call on all those newly elected to restore civility and unite our nation so that we may all prosper and live in a world that is safe and secure.

In the spirit of *tikkun olam*, we call upon our President-elect and members of Congress to assure the nation, particularly the most vulnerable, that the country will live up to its highest ideals and respect the rights of all people. It is not just the responsibility of our government to bring the nation together; it is our responsibility, as members of this great country, to work together on issues of importance including civil rights, social justice, and our environment.

The Community Relations Council is committed to stand with and work beside others who share these values. We will continue to defend the civil liberties of every American including the poor, marginalized and defenseless.

We must not and cannot ignore any form of hate, prejudice and/or bias. This includes anti-Semitism, racism, Islamophobia and other forms of bigotry that have been on the rise. Let us follow the example set by Roger Williams who founded our great state based on the principles of peaceful coexistence and tolerance.

Our state motto is Hope. Let us all hope that our nation comes together to promote the civil rights of all and build a much stronger community whose purpose is peace.

Sincerely,

Richard Glucksman
Community Relations chair

Marty Cooper
Community Relations director

Cara Mitnick
Government Relations co-chair

Ken Orenstein
Government Relations co-chair

LETTER

I am Jewish and I support Mr. Bannon

I am not surprised that David Cicilline is circulating a petition.

As a Jew, who went to religious school for 12 years, I support Mr. Bannon.

Mr. Bannon worked for Jewish businessman Andrew Breitbart. Recently he has taken a key position in the Trump Presidential Campaign. In that capacity he worked alongside Mr. Trump, Ivanka Trump – herself a convert to Orthodox Judaism, Ivanka's husband Jared Kushner – a key Trump Advisor, and Eric Trump – whose wife is also Jewish.

If Mr. Bannon was really anti-Semitic why would he work for Mr. Trump, given the man's close family ties to Judaism?

Why would Mr. Bannon go to the Zionist Organization of America Gala?

H. Russell Taub
Former U.S. Congressional candidate, Providence

Candle Lighting Times

Greater Rhode Island

November 25	**3:59**
December 1	**3:56**
December 9	**3:56**
December 16	**3:57**



Wife of Israeli ambassador excluded from annual get-together

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) – The wife of the Israeli ambassador to Chile was excluded from an annual gathering of the wives of diplomats serving in the South American country.

Michal Hayet was the only wife not invited to the event Nov. 20, which this year was held at the Palestinian Club, a large sports facility and social club located in the elegant neighborhood of Las Condes in the Chilean capital of Santiago.

The Israeli ambassador, Eldad Hayet, called his wife's exclusion an "absolute breach of diplomatic relations" and accused the nonprofit that organizes the event of backing the boycott campaign against Israel led by the local Palestinian community.

"If they had invited us, we would have been happy to participate. You are generating a politicization of both the organization and the activity, whose objective was charity for the needy in Chile," he said.

The organizers sent an apology. But said they could not change the venue and the charity event would be held as planned, without Michal Hayet. "The participation of diplomatic representatives will be reduced," they said in recognition of the likely fallout.

Most Western countries' representatives said they would not attend, reported AJN news service, citing the Israeli embassy. Envoys from the United States, the European Union and Germany expressed their solidarity with Hayet.

"Our exclusion from a traditional charity event as a result of political motivations is an open contradiction of the practice and rules of the diplomatic corps. The participation in this activity means a direct support for the inadequate politicization of an association that, as established in its regulations, is considered apolitical, independent and without religious characteristics," the Israeli ambassador wrote in a letter to the diplomatic corps.

The Israeli envoy intends to raise the issue during his meeting with the Vatican's ambassador to Chile, who serves as dean of the diplomatic corps. He also reported the case to Chile's Foreign Ministry, emphasizing the "negative consequences generated by extremist activity of the Palestinian leadership."

In May, the University of Chile's Law Faculty Student Union voted to approve a Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions resolution against Israel, which prohibited any academic interaction with the state or its citizens.

Chile is home to some 15,000 Jews. The country is also believed to host the largest Palestinian community outside of the Arab world, with more than 300,000 members.

US opposes UN resolution against glorifying Nazism

JTA – The United States voted against a United Nations resolution that condemned the glorification of Nazism.

The resolution titled "Combating glorification of Nazism, Neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fueling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance," was passed by the U.N. Human Rights Committee Nov. 18 by a vote of 131 to 3 with 48 abstentions, the Associated Press reported.

The other two countries that voted against the resolution were Ukraine and Palau.



Stefanie Amadeo

The United States objected to the resolution, saying it had too narrow a scope and that it was being used as a political weapon by Russia to attack its neighboring countries. The U.S. also objected to the resolution's limits on freedom of expression, freedom of association and the right to peaceful assembly.

"We condemn without reservation all forms of religious and ethnic intolerance or hatred at home and around the world," Deputy U.S. Representative to the Economic and Social Council Stefanie Amadeo said, according to the AP.

"However, due to this resolution's overly narrow scope and politicized nature, and because it calls for unacceptable limits on the fundamental freedom of expression, the United States cannot support it," she said.

The resolution is not legally binding.

Actions speak louder than words

There's an old saying that goes, "Be careful what you ask for, because you might get it."



PATRICIA RASKIN

We all have goals and dreams, and some of us spend a good deal of time focusing on them. So what happens when we actually get that job we wanted, our dream relationship, the house we visualized, the trip we waited for, or the president we supported?

Now we have to deal with getting what many, many Americans wanted. There is sure to be change ahead, which is scary for some who didn't vote for Donald Trump and even scary for some who did.

Which brings me to the subject of risk and faith. Anything new involves risk and, in some ways, blind faith, because we don't know the outcome. We are learning as we experience the new path we are on. That involves having faith in the right result – even when the words we have heard aren't what we had hoped for.

Rabbi Moshe Weinberger writes in his article "Actions Speak Louder Than Words," posted at YUTorah Online (yutorah.org.), "The heavens tell the story of existence and creation, and this is the way to hear the story of Hashem. Hashem's actions 'speak.' According to the RaDaK, Hashem's actions ARE the words. How does an action, a physical act compare to speech/words in *halachah* [Jewish law]? A single act can negate a lifetime worth of 'talking'."

Further, this quote by management guru Peter Drucker gives me hope in our system: "Effective leadership is not about making speeches or being liked; leadership is defined by results not attributes."

PATRICIA RASKIN hosts "The Patricia Raskin Show" on Saturdays at 3 p.m. on WPRO, 630 AM/99.7 FM and on Mondays at 2 p.m. on voiceamerica.com. Raskin is a board member of Providence's Temple Emanu-El.

When is a life truly complete and over?



RABBI ANDREA M. GOUZE

When organizing the Torah and deciding how it should be structured, the rabbis divided the Torah into weekly *parshiot* (portions) and titled each portion with the first one or two important words that began that section. The names are not like chapter headings that we find in secular books, and very often do not have any connection to the main events, themes or narrative that occurs within that particular section.

This week's Torah *parashah*, *Hayyei* Sarah, is a quintessential example of this. The translation of *Hayyei* Sarah is "Sarah's Life," but the very first verses describe her death, and then the narrative focuses on Abraham purchasing land in order to bury his wife, then instructing Eliezer, his servant, to journey back to Nahor to find a wife for Isaac.

While the narrative does not talk about Sarah's life, the rabbis, ever attuned to use all anomalies as teaching moments, used this discrepancy of a title, totally disconnected to the events found within, to teach an important lesson. For them, the name of the *parashah* is a lesson for us that we cannot sum up a person's life, or even view it as complete, until the person has passed away.

The lessons inherent in this perspective are many. It teaches us that, as humans, we always have the capacity to continue learning, growing and contributing, up to the very day that we die. It also teaches that even though someone might be old, their lives are not complete; we need to respect them and provide opportunities for them to still be vital and integral members of society.

Some examples of individuals who have made contributions to society at an older age: Grandma Moses first began painting at the age of 78. Abraham Nathanson created the popular game Bananagrams at the age of 76. Bernie Sanders was a presidential candidate at age 75. Laura Ingalls Wilder, the author of the series "Little House on the Prairie," did not write her first book until she was 64. Benjamin Franklin signed the Declaration of Independence when he was 70. In 1994, when he was almost 76, Nelson Mandela was elected president of South Africa in the country's first election that was open to all races. All of these individuals did not let popular beliefs deter them from being active members of society and following their dreams and passions. For them, their chronological age was not the determining factor in what they could still accomplish or in what ways they still had the ability to contribute to society.

I find fascinating the number of creative accomplishments that have been made by people who are over the age of 70.

While we might physically slow down, we have the ability to develop our creative and spiritual sides to a much greater degree than when we are younger. This is partially a result of the fact that we are no longer focused on being successful or working at a job in order to provide for ourselves and our family. After retirement, we have the freedom and the ability to develop those aspects of our personalities that have been dormant for much of our lives. As can be seen from the above examples, people have capitalized upon this and have created much that has enhanced and enriched our civilization.

Older individuals have much to offer in terms of life experience, spiritual growth and intellectual knowledge. We do them, as well as our society as a whole, a disservice when we do not acknowledge the wealth of information, wisdom and perspective that older adults can bring to the table. Unfortunately, American society focuses a lot on how to stay younger; whole industries are devoted to keeping the aging process at bay, be it the cosmetic industry, the health and gym industry or the food industry. Instead of embracing the positives that come with aging, we view it with trepidation and fear. We feed into stereotypes that are not accurate or truthful.

I was at a retreat last week where a young educator was putting on a skit in which she was playing a grandmotherly figure. She decided to portray this individual by slowly walking in a stooped manner and talking like she had marbles in her mouth. The audience of fifth and sixth graders was exposed to an image that does not reflect the reality of how people are aging today and this, unfortunately, skewed their perception of what to expect when they grow older. These stereotypes just help to foster the fear of aging, and perpetuate the cycle of our culture focusing on the young and dismissing the old.

The Torah places the ages of Abraham and Sarah at 90 when they first begin their journey to Canaan, traveling to a new and foreign land. I have often wondered if one of the lessons that it was trying to teach was exactly this idea that we should not make assumptions or presumptions about someone's ability to achieve something just because that person is older.

We are living longer and healthier lives. We need to shift our perceptions as a society in order to stop viewing the elderly as individuals who have "put in their time" and should now fade into the sunset. Instead, we should look to them as a resource and a repository of knowledge and expertise that has been gained through a lifetime of achievements, responsibilities and learning. By shifting our cultural perceptions of the elderly from the negative to the positive, we will not only empower them and give them the dignity they deserve, we will enrich our society, by incorporating their life lessons into our daily lives and routines.

RABBI ANDREA M. GOUZE is currently the part-time rabbi of Temple Beth Emunah of Brockton, Ma. as well as the Director of Pastoral Care at the New England Sinai Hospital in Stoughton, Ma. She also teaches Jewish studies to the 5th grade students at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE RECEIVER OF TEMPLE AM DAVID

Theodore Orson, Esq., the Receiver of Temple Am David, sends his gratitude to the Rhode Island Jewish Community for their outpouring of support, especially concerning the auction that took place at the Temple on August 28, 2016. There were many quiet mitzvah's performed by people who would prefer to remain anonymous.

There are several items from the August 28 auction that remain available for purchase, including three (3) Torahs, Torah ornaments, various Judaica, furniture, and a one (1) burial plot located at Lincoln Cemetery. All prices are negotiable. If you are interested in any of the above, or if you would like a full list of the remaining items, please do not hesitate to contact Fred Resnick at Max Pollack and Co. Auctioneers, Ltd. at (401) 331-6950 by December 31, 2016.

As many are aware, the Temple housed memorial plaques to memorialize former members of Temple Am David, and a commemorative Tree of Life to honor relatives or loved ones. The Receiver has moved the memorial plaques and the Tree of Life to his law firm office, Orson and Brusini Ltd., located at 144 Wayland Avenue, Providence, RI. If you are a relative or loved one of a person named on a memorial plaque, or if you are named on a leaf on the Tree of Life or are a relative or loved one of a person named on a leaf on the Tree of Life, you can retrieve the memorial plaque or the commemorative leaf by scheduling an appointment prior to December 31, 2016 with Marla Blum, whose number is (401) 223-2101 and her email address is mblum@orsonandbrusini.com. Any memorial plaques not retrieved from the Receiver by December 31, 2016 will be housed at another Rhode Island synagogue.



PHOTO | TEMPLE EMANU-EL

Rabbi installed at Emanu-El

Rabbi Rachel Zerin makes the blessing over challah at the end of her installation as a rabbi at Temple Emanu-El on Nov. 6. Prof. Judith Hauptman, who was Zerin's main Talmud teacher at the Jewish Theological Seminary, gave the address. The ceremony began with a grand procession of children from the religious school because, as Hauptman explained, the Talmud likens a rabbi's ordination to a wedding that will bring forth the next generation.

Serving up *shalom* at a post-election Thanksgiving

BY EDMON J. RODMAN

LOS ANGELES (JTA) – It was just a few weeks ago, on the night of Nov. 8, that my family had all anxiously exchanged text messages as we watched the election results trickle in. State by state, my Hillary-loving family saw our hopes slipping away – and now, too soon, we are going to have to gather around the dining room table to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Here's the problem: We're not much in the mood to give thanks.

In a shocking upending of our dreams and expectations, our candidate had lost. We felt that the progressive, multicultural, multiracial and multilingual environment in which we live was threatened. Since then, for my family members and me – not to mention liberals across the land – a kind of mourning has set in for a potential future lost.

With a tableful of liberal Jews coming over for Thanksgiving, what could we do to lift everyone's spirits?

For Thanksgiving, should we serve hard-boiled eggs, like at a house of mourning? It certainly feels like I'm living in one. The loss wasn't nearly as life-shaking as when my parents had died, but as on *Tisha b'Av* – when we chant a dirge called *Eicha*, or Lamentations, about the fall of Jerusalem – I had seen the fall of the ideas in which I dwelled. I felt like singing a sad song.

A post-election Pew survey estimated that about 71 percent of Jewish voters were with Hillary Clinton and 24 percent with Donald Trump. That means there are probably a lot of Jewish families out there like mine – meaning that since that fateful Tuesday, we've been living in an emotional state of blue not shown on any electoral map.

Families in which everyone voted for Trump won't have a problem this year celebrating America's bounty. But if your family is like mine, or is divided between the candidates, short of sprinkling marijuana into the stuffing – hey, now it's legal in my state of California – how do you get the family in a more hopeful mood, or at least a passably reconcilable one?

For help, I put in an emergency call to an old friend, Rabbi Anne Brener, a psychotherapist and faculty member at the Academy of Jewish Religion, in California, as well as the author of "Mourning & Mitzvah." I knew that through her writings and workshops, she had become a spiritual leader who explored how to teach people to help themselves through periods of grief and mourning.

One of her thoughts on Thanksgiving put my hopes in the freezer, along with the cranberries.

"One possibility is that it could just be awful," Brener said.

"With the vulnerability that people are feeling, I think there's an opportunity to really connect in a deeper way," the rabbi said. Releasing a few percentage points from my election-induced anxiety, Brener suggested that people could use the Thanksgiving gathering as an opportunity to "really come together to appreciate what's really fine about the unit of the family."

"It's an opportunity to get back to what Thanksgiving is about," she said, adding that it isn't just the day before Black Friday.

The key, Brener explained, is that we celebrate Thanksgiving "in a setting where one can feel loved, cared for and protected," and "to name the things that bring a family together."

Having these *nehamot* – places of community and caring – "is going to save us," she said.

"Thanksgiving is actually a perfect antidote because it really does give us a chance to be together and to be vulnerable together," she said.

Responding to both my own feeling of loss – along with the loss of so many people around us – Brener counseled that "there are losses that don't follow into a category of mourning but have to be treated just like mourning."

"In the Temple, there was a special gate that opened up into the mourner's path," she said of an ancient Jewish place where mourners of all kinds sought solace.

The people who walked this path "were not just people who had a death in their family," she explained, but "people who were dealing with many things."

In connecting to Jews who lived thousands of years ago, I felt some solace. While their losses were of a different nature, they probably weren't feeling that much different than I was.

But what about Thanksgiving tables that are divided between mourners and those ready to shout *l'chaim*! and raise a glass?

"It's more complicated in families with a Trump supporter uncle," Brener conceded.

Still, if this describes your family – some are experiencing pain and others not – she suggested that we seek the opportunity to build compassion. That's something I realized was a valuable exercise whether a family's political views are united or divided.

Brener suggested a ritual, modeled after the Native American tradition of a talking stick, in which everyone is allowed to speak – "without being interrupted, comforted or told they're wrong" – but only if he or she is holding the stick.

"Everybody has to listen, nobody can fix it for anybody," she urged. "Nobody can confront anybody."

No interrupting? How would that work in any Jewish household, including mine? Brener insisted it was possible. She suggested we use a *yad* – a Torah pointer, whose end is in the form of a hand with an outstretched finger – rather than a stick to help turn the ritual into "something sacred."

"Shalom is a word that also means 'balance' and 'inclusivity,' and taking into account everybody who is present," the rabbi said. So if families are seeking some Shalom on Thanksgiving, she explained, then the ritual is an opportunity to express hurt, as well as gratitude that there's a place where they can be heard.

Brener was right, I realized. Even in a loving yet opinionated, pro-Hillary family like mine, such a ritual may help us find meaning in our loss and help pave a path for us to move forward.

After she and I said our goodbyes and I hung up the phone, I found a *yad* that one of my sons had been given as a Bar Mitzvah gift 14 years ago. Raising the *yad*, I imagined it lifting my family's post-election gloom. With this new tradition in my pocket, I hope it will allow our Thanksgiving table – and yours – to become a place of Shalom.

EDMON J. RODMAN is a JTA columnist who writes on Jewish life from Los Angeles. Contact him at edmojace@gmail.com.

Steps you can take to help prevent falls in the home



LIVING WELL

SUSAN BAZAR

It's a snowy winter day and you have just left your elderly father after a nice visit. He lives alone, but you are heartened that he is safe and warm, with food in the refrigerator and his favorite shows on TV. As a sandwich generation caregiver, you have done your best to honor Dad's wish to stay in his own home. So far, it has worked out well.

Then, the unexpected happens. The wind picks up and the power goes out. Dad gets up from his chair and walks through his dark house to find a flashlight. Suddenly, he trips over a chair and falls to the floor, unable to move or reach a phone. You find him, post-storm, many hours later.

This incident actually occurred last winter to someone known to our agency, and illustrates a scenario that happens far too often with the elderly, particularly those who live alone at home.

According to the National Council on Aging, falls are the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal injuries for older Americans. One-fourth of Americans over the age of 65 falls each year. Every 11 seconds, an older adult is treated in the emergency room for a fall, and every 19 minutes an older adult dies from a fall.

However, falling is not an inevitable result of aging. With lifestyle adjustments and participation in community-based falls-prevention programs, falls among seniors can be substantially reduced.

To "fall-proof" a home, start by doing a room-to-room walk-through safety assessment of the home. Then:

- Eliminate clutter.
- Repair or remove tripping hazards, such as scatter rugs.
- Install grab bars and handrails near tubs/showers, toilets and beds.
- Make tubs and showers non-slip.
- Ensure all areas in the home are well lit; install a night-light in the bathroom.
- Create a setup that minimizes climbing stairs.
- Make sure stairs have handrails on both sides.

In addition, make sure seniors have shoes that fit properly, and that they avoid wearing loose-fitting clothes.

Also enlist their participation in taking steps to stay safe. Ask if they are concerned about falling and why. Observe if they seem to have difficulty walking or are off balance, and ask when they had their last eye exam. Review their medications and health conditions. All this information will give you some direction about the resources necessary to help your loved one stay safe. For example, it may be time to find a physical therapist, doctors and a pharmacist who will work with you to implement a fall-prevention plan for your senior.

In addition, there are several community-based programs designed to prevent seniors from falling by incorporating gait and balance exercises into workouts. Some of the newest ones, such as "A Matter of Balance, Moving for Better Balance and FallScape," may be available at your local JCC, YMCA, YWCA, senior center or hospital wellness program.

The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, in Warwick, is part of a national falls prevention exercise network called "Stay Active and Independent for Life." SAIL is offered three times a week and includes Tai Chi for Arthritis, Tap n'Time and Yoga for Seniors.

Remember, most falls can be prevented. If you have an aging parent, grandparent or neighbor in your life, helping them reduce their risk of falling is one of the greatest gifts you can give them.

If you have questions about accessing these programs or would like more information on preventing falls, please call Jewish Seniors Agency Rhode Island at 401-351-4750.

SUSAN BAZAR (sbazar@jsari.org) is executive director of the Jewish Seniors Agency of R.I.

Stephen F. Schiff, M.D., F.A.C.S.

MOHEL

CERTIFIED *by Jewish Theological Seminary and the Rabbinical Assembly*

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401-247-2948

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 November 30

Traces of Memory: A Contemporary Look at the Jewish Past in Poland. Brown RISD Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence. From the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow, Poland, this inaugural exhibition of the updated "Traces of Memory" collection offers a contemporary look at Jewish Poland, reflecting issues and processes rooted in the past, but influencing the present and the future. Information, contact Marshall Einhorn at marshall_einhorn@brown.edu or 401-863-2805.

Through January 5, 2017

Three Artists with Diverse Talent. Temple Habonim Gallery, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. Photographer Ron Rosenstock, RIC professor of art John DeMelim and textile and surface designer Elena Obelenus. Gallery is open Wednesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday , 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment. Information, call 401-245-6536 or email gallery@templehabonim.org.

Friday | November 25

Tamarisk Open House. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. Join us at The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence to see why we are so thankful for this community. Information, call Susan Adler at 401-732-0037 or email susana@tamariskri.org.

Saturday | November 26

Saturday Mornings Junior Kiddush Club. 9:30-11:15 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Shabbat morning activities include prayer, parashah, play time and a special Kiddush just for kids. Age groups: Tots, Pre-K-1st grade, 2nd grade and up. No fee. Information, contact office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Sunday | November 27

Chamber Concert, Clarinet Choir and Wind Quintet. 2-4 p.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Free and open to the public. Information, contact Dottie in the temple office at 401-942-8350 or dottie@templesinairi.org.

Project Shoresh Partners in Torah Night. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Center for Jewish Studies, 671 East Ave., Pawtucket. Lively, informal, partner-based study group, where you study your choice of texts together, English or Hebrew, ancient or modern, with on-site facilitators available to answer questions – and ask them, too. Let us know if you want to be a "study-buddy." There's a lively, positive energy in the room. Information, contact Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or 401-429-8244.

Monday | November 28

Conversion Class with Rabbi Barry Dolinger. 6:15-7:15 p.m. followed by Ma'ariv. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Broad-based exploration of the biggest topics in Judaism, designed to give an overarching but detailed appreciation for traditional Judaism. This semester focuses on increased personal study to further the breadth of information and delving deeper through discussions during classes. No class 12/12. Information, office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393, or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Tuesday | November 29

Tuesday Night Talmud. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Study entire 5th Chapter of Berachot, which focuses on tefilah with Rabbi Barry Dolinger. Through 12/20. No fee. Information, contact office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Friday | December 2

Shalom Friends. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Jewish Community Day School of RI, 85 Taft Ave., Providence. Weekly Jewish music and movement class for children from birth to age 5 along with families/caregivers. No Jewish background required. Each class includes singing, playing instruments, dancing with scarves, crafts, story, snack and socializing. Every participant receives a book and music CD. Class dates: 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 1/6, 1/13. Cost: $60. Information, contact Naomi Stein at nstein@jcdsri.org or 401-751-2470.

Family Shabbat and Dinner. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Special family Shabbat dinner and worship led by fifth-grade students. Adults $15; Children $8; Maximum $50 per family. Information, contact Judith Gilson at jgilson@temple-beth-el.org or 401-331-6070, ext. 113.

Shabbat Services and Dinner. 5:30 p.m. URI Hillel, 6 Fraternity Circle, Kingston. Services at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:15 p.m. Free for URI students; $15 community members. Information, contact Yaniv Havusha at yaniv_havusha@uri.edu or 401-874-2740.

Shabbat Chai. 6-8:30 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Shabbat Chai combines musical instruments with both traditional and spirited Kabbalat Shabbat melodies. Shabbat dinner after the service. All ages welcomed, children's activities available throughout the evening. No charge, although contributions are welcome before or after Shabbat. Information, contact Paul Stouber at pstouber@teprov.org or 401-331-1616.

Saturday | December 3

Saturday Mornings Junior Kiddush Club. 9:30-11:15 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Shabbat morning activities include prayer, parashah, play time and a special Kiddush just for kids. Age groups: Tots, Pre-K-1st grade, 2nd grade and up. No fee. Information, office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.



PHOTO | E. BRESLER

Cory Pesaturo and Fishel Bressler play live Klezmer tunes Dec. 3 in Portsmouth.

Soulful Shabbat. 10:30 a.m.-noon. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Unique Saturday morning worship experience that emphasizes quiet melody, meditation and movement, along with traditional davening and Torah study. This contemplative practice offers an opportunity to slow down to rediscover ourselves and reconnect with the spirit found in silence, friends, community, nature and the One. Information, contact temple-beth-el.org or 401-331-6070, ext. 113.

Fishel Bresler & Tzibeles. 8-10 p.m. Common Fence Music, 933 Anthony Road, Portsmouth. Fishel Bresler, Rohan Gregory and Cory Pesaturo play lively klezmer tunes, rare and beautiful hasidic melodies, and Fishel's own Jewish compositions from the past two decades. An evening of exquisite and unforgettable music. $18 in advance; $20 at door. For advance tickets, call 800-838-3006. Information, call 401-683-5085.

Sunday | December 4

Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El Hanukkah and Bake Sale. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Hanukkah gifts and delicious baked goodies. Information, contact temple-beth-el.org or 401-331-6070, ext. 113.

Hope Street Winter Stroll. Noon-6 p.m. Hope Street North of Rochambeau Ave., Providence. The "Eat! Shop! Play! – Hope Street Annual Holiday Stroll" is back. Events and activities include selfies with the Human Dreidel sponsored by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, music, story time followed by a free craft for kids, face painting, gingerbread cookie decorating, cooking demos sponsored by Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, plus everyone's favorite food trucks!

Project Shoresh Partners in Torah Night. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Center for Jewish Studies, 671 East Ave., Pawtucket. Free, lively, informal, partner-based study group, where you study your choice of texts together, English or Hebrew, ancient or modern, with on-site facilitators available to answer questions – and ask them, too. Let us know if you want to be a "study-buddy." There's a lively, positive energy in the room. Information, contact Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or 401-429-8244.

Monday | December 5

Conversion Class with Rabbi Barry Dolinger. 6:15-7:15 p.m. followed by Ma'ariv. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Broad-based exploration of the biggest topics in Judaism, designed to give an overarching but detailed appreciation for traditional Judaism. This semester focuses on increased personal study to further the breadth of information and delving deeper through discussions during classes. No class: 12/12. Information, office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393, or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

"The Invisible Jewish Budapest" Book Talk by Mary Gluck of Brown. 7:30-9 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. In 1900 with a Jewish population of 23 percent, Budapest constituted the second largest Jewish city in Europe after Warsaw. Prof. Mary Gluck's new book, "The Invisible Jewish Budapest," explores the nature of this urban culture, which became famous for its musical halls, cabarets, humor and metropolitan lifestyle. Free and open to the public. Information, contact Carol Gualtieri at cgualtieri@teprov.org.

Tuesday | December 6

"Charitable Vehicles for Year-End Giving." 8-9:30 a.m. | 7:45 a.m. Registration and Breakfast. Marriott Downtown, One Orms St., Providence. Sponsored by The Professional Advisory Council of the Jewish Federation Foundation of Greater Rhode Island. Panel Members: Moderator Daniel Gamm, CRPC, Gamm Financial Group; Peri Ann Aptaker, Esq., CPA/PFS, CFP, CBA, Kahn, Litwin, Renza & Co., Ltd.; Paul A. Silver, Esq., Partner, Hinckley Allen & Snyder LLP; Kate Kishfy, J.D., Rhode Island Foundation. This program has been approved for one hour of CEU credit (excludes CPAs). Registration: $25. Register online or at the door. Information, contact Danielle Germanowski at 401-421-4111, ext. 109, or dgermanowski@jewishallianceri.org.

Tuesday Night Talmud. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Study entire 5th Chapter of Berachot, which focuses on tefilah with Rabbi Barry Dolinger. Through 12/20. No fee. Information, office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Friday | December 9

The Early Bird Gets the Worm. 6:15-6:40 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Through 12/16. Explore ethical and spiritual themes in the upcoming week's Torah reading using "Imrei Baruch" by noted RIETS Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Baruch Simon. A great way to study the weekly parashah. Attend Shacharit at 6:45 a.m. and go into Shabbat prepared. Held in the Beit Midrash (chapel) with Rabbi Barry Dolinger. Information, office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

K'Tantan Shabbat and Dinner. 5:30-6:45 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. A 45-minute service designed for families with very young children. Songs, games and crafts to learn all about Shabbat. Information, contact temple-beth-el.org or 401-331-6070.

Saturday | December 10

Saturday Mornings Junior Kiddush Club. 9:30-11:15 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Shabbat morning activities include prayer, parashah, play time and a special Kiddush just for kids. Age groups: Tots, Pre-K-1st grade, 2nd grade and up. No fee. Information, office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

"How the Bible Became Holy." 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Prof. Michael Satlow of Brown University discusses themes from his latest book, "How the Bible Became Holy" (Yale University Press, 2015). Satlow will speak during morning services and conduct a text study after lunch. Satlow speaks at Temple Emanu-El as the Annual Romney-Wegner Judaic Studies lecturer. Free and open to the public. Information, contact Carol Gualtieri at cgualtieri@teprov.org.

Concert/Hanukkah Celebration with Noah Aronson, Artist in Residence. 6 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Noah Aronson is a soulful, energetic composer and performer, inspiring spiritual communities across the U.S. and beyond. Join us for this musical celebration of Hanukkah. Information, contact temple-beth-el.org or 401-331-6070.

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Sunday | December 11

Sunday Mornings OROT. 8:45-9:45 a.m. following Shacharit at 8 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Study of Rav Kook's revolutionary seminal work, a collection of challenging and moving essays describing the religious significance of Zionism. Through 12/18. Information, office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Sundays Serenity. 9:45-10:30 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Meditation instruction for all levels. Open to those who have never meditated or are regular practitioners. Carve out time to engage in mindfulness practice to increase awareness, compassion and inner calm while reducing stress and anxiety. Classes, led by Rabbi Dolinger, will be held in Beit Midrash (chapel). Through 12/18. Information, office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Bagel Brunch. Noon-1 p.m. URI Hillel, 6 Fraternity Circle, Kingston. Bagel brunch featuring eggs, coffee and more. Free for students; $15 for community members. Information, contact Yaniv Havusha at yaniv_havusha@uri.edu or 401-874-2740.

Project Shoresh Partners in Torah Night. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Center for Jewish Studies, 671 East Ave., Pawtucket. Free, lively, informal, partner-based study group, where you study your choice of texts together, English or Hebrew, ancient or modern, with on-site facilitators available to answer questions – and ask them, too. Let us know if you want to be a "study-buddy." There's a lively, positive energy in the room. Information, contact Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or 401-429-8244.

Tuesday | December 13

Teen Israel Arts Contest Award Presentation and Exhibition. 7 p.m. Dwares JCC. Come see the entries in the contest for teens and learn who has won. Those in grades 9-12 were invited to submit an essay, video, piece of art, dance routine, music, etc. responding to the prompt: "I love Israel because...." Top prize: two free airfare tickets from Boston to Tel Aviv courtesy of EL AL Israel Airlines. Information, contact Jana Brenman at 401-421-4111, ext. 181, or jbrenman@jewishallianceri.org.

Tuesday Night Talmud. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Study entire 5th Chapter of Berachot, which focuses on tefilah with Rabbi Barry Dolinger. Through 12/20. No fee. Information, office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Open house at Tamarisk

Nestled in tranquil gardens, Tamarisk offers a close-knit community and a home-like ambiance where you are greeted with smiles and friendly faces. Everyone is important in the community; each face is familiar.

The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence is hosting an open house on Dec. 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the residence, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick.

Rabbi Ethan Adler will perform his songs and stories program from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Tour the beautiful grounds, view an apartment and see residents who are fulfilled and love living at Tamarisk, a premier assisted living residence where residents connect to tradition as well as learn new things and make new friends.



Rabbi Ethan Adler

Call Susan Adler, Marketing and Outreach Director at 401-732-0037 or email her at SusanA@tamariskri.org if you have any questions or would like to arrange a personal tour.

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Dairy dishes, old and new

BY CYNTHIA BENJAMIN

WEST WARWICK — It's a rare Jewish cook who espouses "In with the new, out with the old" – a much more typical attitude being, "In with the new, in with the old."

This was certainly in evidence at Hadassah's dairy potluck Chai Luncheon, held recently at the Riverfarms Condominium Clubhouse. About 30 women attended the luncheon program, and contributed dairy dishes, from the traditional – noodle kugel, egg salad and cut fruit – to the modern, including arugula with curry dressing, caponata, and chocolate mousse cake.

The blending of old and new was also evident in the preparation of the dishes. Asked to supply a recipe for their dish, many of the women shrugged their shoulders and said they could not.

"There's no recipe," Monika Curnett, of Cranston, said of her egg salad dish. "It's a little of this and a little of that."

But other women cited the cookbooks and websites where they had found their recipes. Still others pointed to their dish and easily admitted: "It's from Aldi" or "Stop & Shop made it."

Whether homemade from "a little of this and a little of that," store-bought or from a recipe, the women enjoyed dishes that included noodle kugel, cheese kugel, macaroni and cheese, macaroni salad, spinach and strawberry salad, bean salad, zucchini bread, Mexican corn casserole, chocolate babka, chocolate cake, chocolate chip cookies and carrot cake.



PHOTOS | CYNTHIA BENJAMIN

About 30 women enjoyed Hadassah's dairy Chai Luncheon.

Of course, there was too much food, but by the end of the meal, the serving bowls holding Monika's Egg Salad and Karen Dannin's Broccoli Salad were wiped clean.

"It always is," Dannin, of Middletown, said of her popular Broccoli Salad.

Hadassah's Chai Luncheon is an annual event that everyone is welcome to attend. Until the luncheon rolls around again next year, here are some of the potluck recipes for you to add to your dairy meal repertoire:



Mexican corn casserole

Arugula with Curry Dressing

Margalit Aharon, of Cranston

Salt
Cardamom
Cumin
Cinnamon
Coriander
2-3 tablespoons olive oil
One can of chick peas, drained
1/3 cup plain yogurt
1 teaspoon curry powder
One bag of washed arugula

Heat olive oil and sauté all the spices except curry for a minute or so, until they release their aroma.

Add drained chick peas, sauté about 10 minutes, stirring constantly to get the chick peas coated with the spice mixture.

Remove from heat and let cool. Mix yogurt with curry powder. When the chick peas are totally cool, mix with the arugula in a salad bowl, and drizzle the yogurt dressing on top.

Broccoli Salad

Karen Dannin, of Middletown

In blender, blend together:

3 ounces cream cheese
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 tablespoons sugar
1/8 teaspoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
1 egg
2 tablespoons salad oil
1/4 teaspoon salt
Dash pepper

Pour mixture over:

1 bunch broccoli florets
2 tablespoons chopped red onion
1/3 cup raisins
Chill overnight.

Monika's Egg Salad

Monika Curnett, of Cranston

Hard-boiled eggs
Mayonnaise
Sweet pepper relish
Salt
Pepper

Mash eggs. Mix mayonnaise, relish, salt and pepper together, to taste. Mix into mashed eggs, stir until evenly blended. Taste and adjust seasonings to taste.

Mexican Corn Casserole

Judy Schoenfeld, of North Smithfield

1 medium onion, chopped
1 stick butter
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
8 ounces sour cream
1 package corn bread mix
1 can whole kernel corn (do not drain)
1 can cream style corn.

Sauté onion in butter. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Mix the rest of the ingredients together until well-blended and then mix in onion mixture. Pour into pan and bake for one hour, or until set but still a little moist.

Spinach and Strawberry Salad

From Sue Mayes; reprinted from "A Simcha Every Day," published by Hadassah Glastonbury (Conn.)

1/4 to 1/2 cup sugar, to taste
2 tablespoons sesame seeds
1 tablespoon poppy seeds
1/4 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1/4 teaspoon paprika
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/4 cup cider vinegar
1 pint fresh strawberries, sliced
1 bag fresh baby spinach

To make the dressing: combine the first seven ingredients in a food processor or blender.

Combine sliced strawberries and spinach in a large salad bowl. Drizzle with dressing and toss as you serve.

Favorite Easy Apple Cake

Phyllis B. Solod, of Warwick

2 cups diced, peeled apples
1 cup sugar
1/3 cup oil
1 egg
1 1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Mix apples and sugar together and let sit for 10 minutes. Add oil and eggs. Combine flour with remaining ingredients and mix into apple mixture.

Pour into greased 8-inch square pan. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes or until it tests done. Let cool in pan for 10 minutes before removing.

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



Add a little healthy pumpkin to spice up your macaroons

BY SANDY LEIBOWITZ

(The Nosher via JTA) – In the fall, we see pumpkin everywhere. Sometimes it goes overboard, into foods in which pumpkin doesn't belong. In this recipe, though, it adds a subtle creaminess and does double duty to moisten the (sometimes) dry macaroons.

Not to mention, pumpkin has some nutritional value. It is a good source of vitamins and dietary fiber – we all need that in our desserts, trust me.

I shaped these more like cookies because they seem to bake more evenly. If you like them with more of a crunch and less of a chewy center, just flatten them out more. Once you let them cool out of the oven, they will crisp right up. I topped mine with crushed, sliced almonds, but feel free to substitute pecans or, even better, pumpkin seeds.



Pumpkin Spice Macaroon Cookies

Ingredients

2 1/2 cups shredded coconut
2 tablespoons cornstarch
3 egg whites
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1/2 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
1/8 cup maple syrup
1/4 cup pumpkin puree (from a can, not pumpkin pie mix)
Almonds, pecans or pumpkin seeds for garnish

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking tray with parchment paper.

Combine coconut, pumpkin pie spice and cornstarch. Set aside.

In a double boiler (if you don't have one, place a small amount of water in a saucepan, and put a bowl on top. Put the heat on low and the steam will gently cook), whisk the egg whites until foamy. Add sugar and keep whisking until you get soft peaks (the egg whites can almost hold shape on the tip of your whisk and then melt again) and the sugar has melted.

Take coconut and cornstarch mixture and add the maple syrup and pumpkin puree, and combine gently. Fold in egg whites gently until everything is evenly combined.

With a tablespoon, form cookies and place an inch apart on a cookie sheet. Top with nuts of your choice.

Bake for approximately 25 minutes, or until golden brown on the edges. Remove and allow to cool (they will crisp up even more).

SANDY LEIBOWITZ trained at the Culinary Institute of America and worked at top non-Kosher restaurants in New York City, including the Russian Tea Room and Spice Market. Visit her at thekoshertomato.com and on instagram @thekoshertomato.

THE NOSHER FOOD BLOG offers a dazzling array of new and classic Jewish recipes and food news, from Europe to Yemen, from challah to shakshuka and beyond. Check it out at TheNosher.com.

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Scenes from the Great Rhode Island Challah Bake

Were you there? More than 150 women and girls gathered Nov. 10 at Brown RISD Hillel to bake challah. While their dough rose, there was singing and dancing. The event was part of the worldwide Shabbat Project. Mark your calendars for next year. It's an annual event.











PHOTOS | FRAN OSTENDORF












The Great Rhode Island
Challah
Bake


The Great Rhode Island
Challah
Bake











10 inspiring Jews who died this year

BY GABE FRIEDMAN

JTA – It's a fact of life: Scores of notable people pass away each year. But for some reason – whether it's the continued aging of the baby boomer generation, the increasingly loud echo chambers on social media of condolences, or maybe just the expansion of who (or what) constitutes a celebrity in our collective psyche – the past year has been marked with an unusually high number of high-profile deaths, including David Bowie, Prince and Muhammad Ali.

Within the Jewish world, there were striking losses, too. This past year has taken many notable and influential members of the tribe from all walks of life. Here are just a few of those whose passing left a lasting mark.



Elie Wiesel, 87

Nobel Prize winner, writer of over 50 books, moral conscience – the honors and titles abound for Elie Wiesel. As JTA's Ben Sales wrote after his passing in July, the "Night" author's books and activism seared the horrors of the Holocaust into American cultural consciousness and arguably did more to unite American Jews than any other figure. After his death, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a resolution honoring his life, which included a proposal to build a memorial statue of him at the Capitol. He was also honored with a photo exhibition in Russia, whose Jewish community he advocated for in his 1966 book "The Jews of Silence."



Shimon Peres, 93

Few people had as much of an impact on Israeli history as Shimon Peres. In fact, Peres – born Szymon Perski in Wiszniew, Poland – fought for Israel before it was a state, leading divisions of the *Haganah*, the precursor to the Israel Defense Forces.

He would go on to hold numerous Cabinet positions – including minister of defense and of foreign affairs – and served as president from 2007 to 2014. (And while he never won an election to become prime minister, he filled that position three times.) Over his decades in public service, Peres won a Nobel Prize for negotiating the 1993 Oslo Accords with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and became a symbol of the movement for peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors – something he promoted until his death in September. "A light has gone out, but the hope he gave us will burn forever," President Barack Obama said in a statement. "Shimon Peres was a soldier for Israel, for the Jewish people, for justice, for peace, and for the belief that we can be true to our best selves – to the very end of our time on Earth."



Gene Wilder, 83

From Willy Wonka to Dr. Frankenstein to the rabbi in "The Frisco Kid," Gene Wilder – born Jerome Silberman – played some of the quirkiest, most beloved film characters of the 1970s and '80s. After Mel Brooks gave him his first major role, as Leopold Bloom in "The Producers," the Jewish comedic team went on to collaborate on other classics, such as 1974's "Blazing Saddles" and "Young Frankenstein." As a teenager, Wilder spent time at a military school, where he claimed he was beaten up for being the only Jewish student. In 1984, he married Jewish comedian Gilda Radner, who died of ovarian cancer in 1989. In addition to acting, screenwriting and directing, Wilder went on to publish multiple novels and a short story collection. He died of complications from Alzheimer's disease in August.



Esther Jungreis, 80

Many try to promote observance among the Jewish masses, but only one was nicknamed the "Jewish Billy Graham." Jungreis, who as a child in Hungary survived the Holocaust, founded the Hineni organization in 1973 with the aim of bringing young Jews into the Orthodox fold. In addition to holding colorful rallies for the cause that often included elaborate lighting and musical accompaniment, she wrote self-help books and organized classes and singles events. In 1973, Jungreis held a rally at Madison Square Garden to inspire Jewish awakening; 10,000 people came. "The Rebbetzin," as she was commonly known, died of complications from pneumonia in August.



Garry Shandling, 66

Before shows like "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and "Louie" gave viewers a behind-the-scenes look at the comedy industry, there was "The Larry Sanders Show," Garry Shandling's Emmy-winning and somewhat dark take on the life of a late-night talk show host. And before "Larry Sanders," Shandling created an even more meta show with an appropriately postmodern name: "It's Garry Shandling's Show," which frequently saw its creator break the fourth wall.

But before all of this, Shandling was born to Jewish parents in Chicago. He became a respected standup comedian before getting into TV and eventually mentored other comics, including Sarah Silverman and Judd Apatow. "Yesterday we lost our most brilliant comic mind," Silverman wrote after his passing in March from complications due to hyperparathyroidism. "The symptoms are so much like being an older Jewish man, no one noticed!" Shandling said in an episode of Jerry Seinfeld's "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee" filmed not long before his death.



Doris Roberts, 90

She is most widely known as the snappy Italian mother of Ray Romano's character on the hit sitcom "Everybody Loves Raymond" – a role that earned her four Emmy Awards – but Doris Roberts (née Green) was proud of her Russian-Jewish heritage. Although she primarily played mothers or grandmothers in the late stages of her career, her six decades in theater, television and film also included roles on the detective show "Remington Steele" and films such as "The Honeymoon Killers" and "The Taking of Pelham One Two Three." Roberts told the Jewish Virtual Library that one of her favorite roles was in "Hester Street," a film about a family of Russian-Jewish immigrants living in New York City. (She was born in St. Louis but was raised in the Bronx.) She passed away in her sleep in April.



Imre Kertesz, 86

Many novelists who have taken on the Holocaust seek to evoke empathy from the reader through intense or graphic description. By contrast, the novels of Imre Kertesz – recipient of the 2002 Nobel Prize in Literature – seek to describe life in Nazi concentration camps as faithfully as possible, without indignation.

Take the Nobel committee's description of "Fateless," his 1975 book: "The novel uses the alienating device of taking the reality of the camp completely for granted, an everyday existence like any other." The Nobel award was extremely unexpected for Kertesz, who worked in relative obscurity in his native country of Hungary, where he supported himself by translating German works. "What I discovered in Auschwitz is the human condition, the end point of a great adventure, where the

INSPIRING JEWS | 16

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FROM PAGE 16 | # INSPIRING JEWS

European traveler arrived after his 2,000-year-old moral and cultural history," he said in his acceptance speech. He died in March.



Meir Dagan, 71

After a decorated 30-year career in the IDF, in which he rose to the rank of major general, Meir Dagan became known as one of Israel's most brilliant military minds. He went on to head the Mossad, where among his accomplishments he was credited with overseeing the creation of the Stuxnet virus, which wiped out a fifth of Iran's nuclear centrifuges. Dagan, who headed the Israeli intelligence agency from 2002 to 2011, also wasn't afraid to blast Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hawkish posture toward using a military option against Iran. But when he died of liver cancer in March, even Netanyahu had high praise for him – and referred to a photo of Dagan's grandfather in a Nazi camp. "Meir was determined to ensure that the Jewish people would never be helpless and defenseless again," Netanyahu said.



Anton Yelchin, 27

It might sound cliché, but the untimely death of Russian-Jewish actor Anton Yelchin can only be described as a freak accident. Friends found Yelchin – a rising Hollywood star who appeared in dozens of films, such as the "Star Trek" reboot series – pinned between his Jeep and a brick pillar in the driveway of his Los Angeles home in June. He had apparently left the car, which rolled into him, in neutral. However, soon after the accident, The Associated Press revealed that the model of Jeep Yelchin owned was in the process of being recalled for a problem with its gear shift that made it difficult to tell when it was in park. Yelchin's parents, former figure skaters who qualified for the 1972 Olympics (but were not permitted to compete by Soviet authorities, likely because they were Jewish), have sued Fiat Chrysler over the tragic incident.



Goldie Michelson, 113

Who would have thought that two Jewish bubbes named Goldie would be two of the oldest people in the world? After the passing of Goldie Steinberg last year, Michelson likely became the oldest Jewish person in the world. Then, after the passing of Susannah Mushatt-Jones in May, Michelson became the oldest living American. Michelson, née Corash, migrated with her family from Russia at the age of 2 to Worcester, Massachusetts, where she lived for over a century. She wrote her master's thesis at Clark University on the Jews of Worcester and volunteered for Hadassah. The secret to her longevity? It's a simple one: walk every day (although she enjoyed chocolate and lobster, too).

She passed away in July, only a month away from her 114th birthday.



PHOTO | STEVEN SHAPIRO

Monte Carlo night 2016.

Torat scores with annual fundraiser

BY HILARY LEVEY FRIEDMAN

EAST GREENWICH – On Nov. 19, Temple Torat Yisrael held its second annual Monte Carlo night. The event was filled with music, food, and a lot of great energy from both congregation members and the community.

Indicative of how quickly Temple Torat Yisrael has become embedded in the broader community, local businesses and leaders donated more than $12,000 worth of merchandise to the silent auction. Highlights included $2,000 toward orthodontic treatment by Pezza Orthodontics of Cranston, gift baskets and cards from such East Greenwich mainstays as The Savory Grape, Ritrovo and Besos, and experiences like a Newport overnight package at the Admiral Weaver Inn. Synagogue leaders also donated wine bottles for a wine grab and funds to create a lottery tree.

The event is a major fundraiser for the growing congregation, according to Ways & Means Vice President Stephanie Norin. One of Temple Torat Yisrael's goals, says Norin, is "developing more youth and young adult centered programs," which will be open to all.

Susan Smoller, a past president of the synagogue, highlighted how great it was to have so many members and non-members having so much fun together. Naveh Levy, who helped organize the event, reinforced how important it is "as a community to support all East Greenwich businesses and places of worship."

Put it on your calendar for next year – the weekend before Thanksgiving.

HILARY LEVEY FRIEDMAN is a member of Temple Torat Yisrael's Board.





FROM PAGE 1

RENOVATIONS

other social gatherings.

At completion, the building will be accessible to all, thanks to the ramps and elevator. The existing elevator near the fitness center will remain in use. The Dwares JCC will reopen with a new back entrance and downstairs lobby; the Bornstein front entrance; relocated Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center; the Salmanson upper lobby; and the Baxt Social Hall.

Progress will be on display during Day at the J, scheduled for Jan. 29. 2017. The Dwares JCC will be open for activities, including conversations about books, followed by a celebration of Jewish books and activities in the fitness center.

The Dwares JCC renovation project is a long-term strategic initiative. The plan started after Donald and Bonnie Dwares announced a major donation to the Jewish Community Center in 2012 to help update and renovate the building.

The goals are to modernize the aging building, create an inclusive, welcoming place, make the facility handicapped accessible and create better flow while enhancing security. Once the renovations are complete, the Dwares JCC will continue to provide for the social, cultural, educational, recreational and health-related needs of the greater R.I. Jewish community.

Initial portions of the project included work on the HVAC system, energy-efficient lighting, pool renovations and updates to the fitness center locker rooms. The David C. Isenberg Family Early Childhood Center (ECC) continues to undergo classroom expansions and updates, which will serve as a fitting legacy to David Isenberg.

"All these upgrades are designed to enhance the membership experience and make the building a more inclusive community center, welcoming to all," said Dan Hamel, CFO. "It's going to be a wonderful, more inviting experience coming into the building."

"This is an impressive renovation project," said Mehdi Khosrovani, president of n|e|m|d architects Inc. of Providence. "The building will look modern, but inviting and comfortable."

Since the beginning of the Capital Campaign, the Jewish Alliance has raised more than $6 million of its roughly $6.5 million goal, and this project is being funded by donations earmarked solely for this effort. Subsequent to the Dwares' gift, other generous donors have also contributed to the funding, which has led to additional naming opportunities.

"Our community is so fortunate to have so many members who support us in all of our endeavors," said Jeffrey Savit, president and CEO of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. "Their caring and philanthropy are boundless. When people enter the newly renovated Dwares JCC, they will know that the Jewish community was responsible for providing such a modernized facility that will be welcoming and accessible to one and all." Savit reassured readers that no money from the Alliance operating budget or money that would have otherwise been allocated elsewhere is being used or will ever be used in the renovations.

Savit added, "I am so excited with all the progress, and although the building will quietly reopen this winter, there will be a grand community dedication in late May."

To support the Dwares JCC Capital Campaign, visit jewishallianceri.org. Additionally, naming opportunities present a unique chance for individuals, families and businesses to write a chapter in greater Rhode Island's Jewish history. For information on becoming part of the Dwares' JCC legacy for generations to come, contact Trine Lustig, vice president of philanthropy, at 401-421-4111, ext. 223, or tlustig@jewishallianceri.org.

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



PHOTOS | BRIAN SULLIVAN

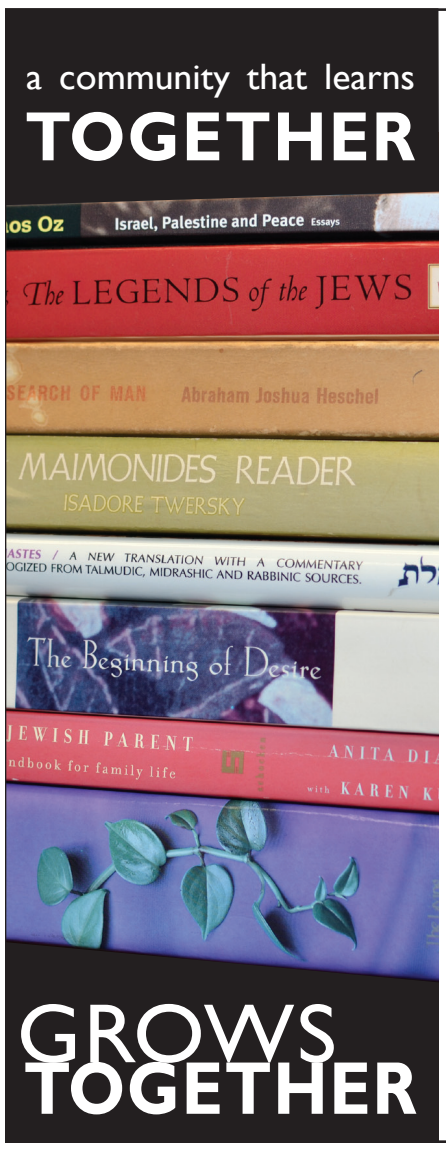
The exterior canopies and concrete work are nearly finished.



The view toward the doors of the soon-to-be renovated Baxt Social Hall.



Looking down the new stairs from the upper lobby.



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Jeffrey Savit is reading
In The Garden of Beasts by Erik Larsen

For more recommendations, and to register, please visit
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Molly Picon in the spotlight at Temple Emanu-El: A concert retrospective

BY LINDA SHAMOON

If you think you know about Jewish entertainers, try this little quiz:

Which Jewish entertainer had a hugely successful 80-year career in every entertainment genre – theater, film, television, and radio? (a) Gertrude Berg (aka: Mrs. Goldberg) (b) Fanny Brice (c) Molly Picon

Which American film and theater star, despite being born and raised in the U.S., had a career based in the Yiddish theater and whose first big-hit films in America were made in Poland in Yiddish? (a) Sophie Tucker (b) Sarah Berhardt (c) Molly Picon

Which film star was the first to play a young woman who disguises herself as a Hasidic boy and is betrothed to a Talmudic scholar? (a) Barbara Streisand (b) Hermione Gingold (c) Molly Picon

Which entertainment star had an entire room at the Second Avenue Deli, in New York City, dedicated to his/her career and filled with his/her memorabilia? (a) Sid Caesar (b) Groucho Marx (c) Molly Picon

Which award-winning singer-dancer comedienne was also a librettist, scriptwriter, translator, producer, and philanthropist? (a) Lillian Roth (b) Theda Bara (c) Molly Picon

As you may have guessed, or known, the answer to each question is Molly Picon, the remarkable singer-dancer-comedienne whose career spanned 80 years and who was a star in every entertainment genre. Picon was so popular in the 1920s that many shows had her name, Molly, in their title.



Cantor Lynn Torgove

Her long film career started in the 1920s in silent films, then continued in Yiddish films and Hollywood films, both comic and dramatic, into the 1990s. One of her last film roles was as Yente the Matchmaker in "Fiddler on the Roof."

Picon was also proudly Jewish and a delightful portrayer of Yiddish culture throughout her career.

At 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 10, at Temple Emanu-El, in Providence, Molly Picon's songs, scenes and inimitable spirit will light up the stage once again. Cantor Lynn Torgove, mezzo-soprano, and award-winning pianist Judith Lynn Stillman, along with klezmer clarinetist Cantor Becky Khitrik, klezmer violinist Yaeko Miranda, and baritone David Kravitz, will perform "The Inimitable Molly Picon! A Concert Retrospective of a Remarkable Jewish Life." With live music, costumes, and clips from Picon's films, this group will present Picon favorites.

Cantor Torgove, who is head of Vocal Arts and an instructor of Jewish Music at Hebrew College, in Boston, is a favorite guest artist at Temple Emanu-El, beloved for her beautiful voice and engaging stage presence.



Judith Lynn Stillman

Torgove has an international career in classical music, opera and stage production, and is a fan of Picon's songs and performance style. She wrote the script for the Dec. 10 concert retrospective, as well as serving as producer, director, and singer.

Stillman, an internationally renowned pianist, composer, and choral conductor, and a professor of music at Rhode Island College, is another favorite guest artist at Temple Emanu-El. In May, Stillman performed at Emanu-El's Holocaust remembrance program, where she presented "Phoenix from the Ashes: Terezin in Words and Music," a multimedia tribute and original song cycle that she created, composed, produced and performs.



Molly Picon

Molly Picon was proudly Jewish and a delightful portrayer of Yiddish culture.

Molly Picon was sometimes called "the Helen Hayes of Jewish theater." When Hayes heard this, she is reported to have said, "I would be proud to be called the Molly Picon of the American theater!"

Picon routinely portrayed characters who exhibited, according to historian Joann Green, "naïve gumption, or a charming display of tears, or laughter, along with somersaults, songs, and musical instruments …." Theater historian Michael Feldberg has written, "Her athleticism, charm, looks and humor made Picon an All-American *maydl* [girl], packing in both Yiddish and non-Yiddish speaking audiences …. Her small stature notwithstanding, she was a superstar of Yiddish stage and film."

It should be quite an evening.

The Dec. 10 presentation of "The Inimitable Molly Picon! A Concert Retrospective of a Remarkable Jewish Life" is underwritten by the Benton and Elaine Odessa Concert Fund. It is the second of five events being presented this season by Arts Emanu-El.

The next events are two art exhibits in March, and a final, family-friendly event is planned for April 30: A joyous 69th birthday celebration of Israel's independence, with live music, Israeli dancing and a screening of the film "Above and Beyond."

Details of all Arts Emanu-El presentations are available at the Temple Emanu-El website, www.teprov.org, under the What's Happening tab.

Tickets for "The Inimitable Molly Picon! A Concert Retrospective of a Remarkable Jewish Life" are $20 in advance and $30 at the door. To buy tickets, go to www.teprov.org, or send a check to: Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, RI 02906. The ticket price includes the concert and a dessert reception.

LINDA SHAMOON is co-chair of Arts Emanu-El at Temple Emanu-El.

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This program has been approved for one hour of CEU credit (*excludes CPAs*).

Advance registration recommended: contact Danielle Germanowski at dgermanowski@jewishallianceri.org or 401.421.4111 ext. 109.
Payment will be accepted at the door.

REMEMBER THE PAST

From the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

The Buttonwood Agreement of 1792

BY GERALDINE S. FOSTER

My daughter Judith keeps me *au courant* with articles about art and artists, aggravating news items, and arcane bits of the history of Jews in New York City, where she lives.

Recently she sent an item titled "The Buttonwood Jews." On seeing the title, my first thoughts turned to the historical section of Warwick known as Buttonwoods Beach, on Nausaucket Neck. But it soon became apparent this item had nothing to do with Warwick or a beach. The article, from the website Jewish Treats (http://www.jewishtreats.org/search?q=Buttonwood), dated May 17, 2016, dealt with the actions of some New York businessmen more than 200 years ago. It began:

"On the 17th of May, 1792, 24 businessmen met under a buttonwood (sycamore) tree and made an agreement to deal only with one another and to set a .25% commission rate on the transactions. The tree under which those brokers and merchants met was located on Wall Street in Manhattan, and that agreement established what would become the New York Stock Exchange."

The article then named and briefly profiled the five Jewish businessmen who signed the Buttonwood Agreement: Isaac Moses Gomez, Bernard Hart, Ephraim Hart, Benjamin Mendes Seixas and Alexander Zunz.

In addition to their common business interests, they all belonged to Congregation Shearith Israel in New York. Three also had family connections to Jews in Colonial Newport. It should be noted that by the time the agreement was signed, Newport had ceased to be a commercial hub, and the once vibrant Jewish community was no more.

Admittedly, these links to the early history of the Jews in Rhode Island are tenuous – one might say just footnotes – but interesting when considered in the web of our history.

So, who were they, the five Jewish signatories to the Buttonwood Agreement, whose action so long ago affects our lives even today?

Alexander Zunz came to this country from Germany to serve with the British forces during the American Revolution. He was one of a number of Hessian Jewish mercenaries hired by the British. Those stationed in or near New York would worship at Shearith Israel with the congregation of Tory sympathizers remaining in the city. Zunz evidently saw a better future for himself conducting business than fighting rebels. He deserted and became a successful entrepreneur.



Under the buttonwood tree, 68 Wall St., the New York Stock Exchange is born on May 17, 1792.

The two men named Hart were not related to each other or to the Hart families of Newport. Ephraim Hart, nee Hirz, was not of Spanish or Portuguese descent; he was born in Germany. It is not known when he came to this country, but he was here during the War for Independence. The inscription on his tombstone states he was a private in Captain Henry Graham's Company.

Bernard Hart was born in London and came to this country in 1777. He was married twice. His grandson Francis, descended from his first wife Catherine, chose to be known not as Francis Hart but by his middle name Brett, with a slight change in the spelling. He dropped the final T from Brett and added an E to Hart. Bret Harte gained renown as a poet and author of short stories about the West. His favored subjects were the miners and drifters, scoundrels and settlers who came to California during the Gold Rush.

Bernard's second wife was Rebecca, daughter of Benjamin Mendes Seixas, and therein lies a Newport connection.

Benjamin Mendes Seixas, the father-in-law of Bernard Hart, was born in Newport, though his brothers were all born in New York. The four Seixas brothers played major roles in early American Jewish history. Abraham served as an officer in the Continental Army. Gershom, at age 23, became the first American-born hazzan and the spiritual leader of Shearith Israel. For his actions and espousal of the patriot cause, he was one of 14 clergymen invited to attend the inauguration of George Washington. He was also cited because he was one of the first ministers in New York to preach Thanksgiving Day sermons. A plaque in the congregation he served for half a century calls him "The Patriot Jewish Minister of the American Revolution."

Moses, one of the founders of the Newport Bank of Rhode Island, wrote the letter of welcome to George Washington in the name of his congregation when Washington visited Newport. Washington's reply, which incorporated phrases from Seixas's letter, is read each year at Touro Synagogue.

Isaac Moses Gomez's great-grandfather, Luis Moses Gomez, arrived in New York around the beginning of the 18th century. He first opened a store, and soon realized the potential of international trade, using his family connections. He also established a trading post 6 miles from Newburgh, New York. The 300-year-old Gomez Mill House, in Marlboro, New York, is the oldest surviving Jewish residence in America.

The family prospered and took an active role in community affairs. Isaac continued their success in commerce as a broker and also followed the tradition of philanthropy. His connection to Rhode Island was his marriage to "his beloved" Abigail, daughter of Aaron Lopez. They raised 10 children.

I admit – I do enjoy these sorts of footnotes. They add color to the web of our history.

GERALDINE S. FOSTER is a past president of the R.I. Jewish Historical Association. To comment about this or any RIJHA article, contact the RIJHA office at info@rijha.org or 401-331-1360.

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Israeli army conscription rate drops 3.5% since 2010

JTA – The rate of enlistment into the Israel Defense Forces has dropped by 3.5 percent over the past five years, army sources said.

In 2016, the IDF saw the conscription of 72 percent of people who are initially listed as duty bound to serve in the military, Army Radio reported Nov. 16.

Among the 28 percent who do not enlist are tens of thousands of haredi Orthodox Jews, who were allowed an automatic exemption from serving until a 2014 law decreed they sign up for the army or other frameworks by 2017. Others in that category include people who are exempt on medical grounds and a small minority of conscientious objectors.

The decrease in the rate of enlistment reflects primarily a growth in the haredi demographics rather than a drop in the motivation of recruits to serve, Army Radio reported.

The number of conscripts serving in the IDF is classified. Estimates in foreign publications and agencies range from 250,000 to 380,000 soldiers on active duty, plus another 400,000 reserve troops.

While many haredim still avoid military service, the army met its 2015 goal for increasing haredi participation in its ranks, according to the radio report. The news site Walla reported that the IDF last year saw at least 2,300 haredi recruits, a record, compared to 1,972 the previous year.

A steady rise has been recorded over the past five years also in the conscription of women, especially religious women who can easily receive an exemption from military service.

In 2016, the IDF recruited four times as many female soldiers than in 2010, according to Army Radio, leading to the opening of several new coed battalions. Separately, the number of religious female conscripts has increased by 50 percent during that period.

Most Arab Israelis are automatically exempt from serving but may volunteer. Men from the Circassian and Druze minorities are subject to mandatory conscription. Bedouin men are encouraged and in some cases invited to enlist, but it is not mandatory.

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Chabad in Berlin receives $2 million in federal funding

JTA – The Jewish Museum and Chabad-Lubavitch in Berlin have received $2.15 million from a $1.75 billion pot intended for cultural institutions and projects in Berlin, it was announced the week of Nov. 7.

The Jewish Museum Berlin will receive $7 million in 2017, an increase of $1.18 million. The added funding reflects the importance of Jewish life in Berlin, Social Democratic Party lawmaker Swen Schulz, a member of the Bundestag's Budget Committee, told the German news agency dpa.

The Barenboim-Said Academy, which trains young musicians from the Middle East who are invited to Berlin on scholarships, will receive up to $1.5 million.

The budget includes $287 million for cultural projects in institutions.

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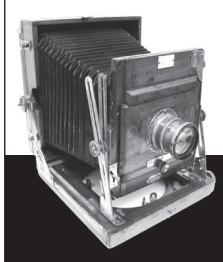
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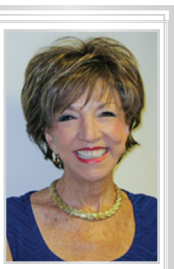
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Year-end financial review can help 2017 start strong


BARBARA KENERSON

Although the year is drawing to a close, you still have time to review your finances. Pausing to reflect on the financial progress you made in 2016 and identifying adjustments for 2017 can help you start the new year stronger than ever.

How healthy are your finances?

Think of a year-end review as an annual physical for your money. Here are some questions to ask that will help assess your financial fitness.

• **Do you know how you spent your money in 2016?** Did you make any progress toward your financial goals? Look for spending habits (such as eating out too much) that need tweaking, and make necessary adjustments to your budget.

• **Are you comfortable with the amount of debt that you have?** Any end-of-year mortgage, credit card and loan statements will spell out the amount of debt you still owe and how much you've been able to pay off this year.

• **How is your credit?** Having a positive credit history may help you get better interest rates when you apply for credit, potentially saving you money over the long term. Check your credit report at least once a year by requesting your free annual copy through the federally authorized website annualcreditreport.com.

• **Do you have an emergency savings account?** Generally, you should aim to set aside at least three to six months of living expenses. Having this money can help you avoid piling up more credit-card debt or shortchanging your retirement or college savings because of an unexpected event such as job loss or illness.

• **Do you have an adequate amount of insurance?** Your insurance needs may change over time, so it's a good idea to review your coverage at least once a year to make sure it still meets your needs.

How wealthy are you really?

It's easy to put your retirement savings on autopilot, especially if you're making automatic contributions to a retirement account. But market swings this year may have affected your retirement account balances, so review any statements you've received.

• **How have your investments performed in comparison to general market conditions, against industry benchmarks and in relation to your expectations and needs?** Do you need to make any adjustments based on your own circumstances, your tolerance for risk or because of market conditions?

• **Look for ways to save more.** For example, if you received a pay increase this year, don't overlook the opportunity to increase your employer-sponsored retirement plan contributions. Ask your employer to set aside a higher percentage of your salary.

How wise are you about financial matters?

What you don't know can hurt you, so it's time to honestly assess your financial picture. Taking into account your income, savings and investments, and debt load, did your finances improve this year? If not, what can you do differently in 2017? What are your greatest financial concerns? Do you have certain life events coming up that you need to prepare for, such as marriage, buying a home or sending your child off to college? You can't know everything, so don't put off asking for assistance. It's a wise move that can help you prepare for next year's financial challenges

BARBARA KENERSON is First Vice President/Investments at Janney Montgomery Scott LLC and can be reached at BarbaraKenerson.com.

Year-End Financial Checklist

- ☑ Review your benefits during your employer's open enrollment season, and make any necessary changes before your employer's deadline.
- ☑ Use up any contributions to your flexible spending account (FSA) before the use-it-or-lose-it deadline (this may be the end of the year–check with your employer).
- ☑ Update estate planning documents such as wills, trusts, and health-care directives to account for life changes.
- ☑ Review and update beneficiaries for your financial accounts and insurance policies.
- ☑ Make year-end donations to charity. If you itemize, these may help reduce your taxable income for 2016.*
- ☑ Consider gifts to family members. For 2016, you may give up to $14,000 to each individual without owing gift taxes.*
- ☑ Begin organizing your financial records for tax time.
- ☑ Check your Social Security Statement at ssa.gov to find out about future benefits.



Stella Block, 100



FLORIDA – Stella Nevelson Block, born in Newport on July 2, 1916, passed away Nov. 13. A resident of Florida since 1978, after raising her children, Stella worked for 25 years with the Israel Bonds organization as a regional administrative assistant before retiring.

Preceded in death by her beloved husband, Millard, and her granddaughter Jennifer Rotondi, Stella is survived by many loving family members: children Richard (Sandra) Block, Susan (David) Epstein; grandchildren Adam (Miwa) Block, Jason (Jerilyn) Block, Jay (Jackie) Epstein, Deborah and Richard Epstein, Cheryl (Michael) Spielberger and Kristen (David) Peninger; great-grandchildren Jacob Block, Ethan, Emma and Robbie Epstein, Julia and Jacob Spielberger, Courtney Sweat, Breanna Peninger, Jacob and Kaitlyn Epstein, and Hannah Epstein.

Florence Delerson, 87

POMPANO BEACH, FLA. – Florence L. Delerson, of Pompano Beach, died Nov. 15. She was born on May 2, 1929, in Providence. She lived in Pompano Beach for three years. Prior to that, she lived in Tamarac, Fla., for 28 years. She is preceded in death by husband, Lowell, and her parents Samuel and Tillie Berman. Florence and Lowell were members of the Sinai Bowling League in Cranston.

She is survived by sons Marc, who lives in Florida; Neil (Audrea) who lives in Texas; and Alan who lives in California; grandchildren Brandon, Bryan and Lauren Delerson, and great-grandchildren Christian and Elijah Samuel Delerson. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choosing.

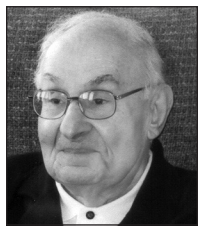
Karen Eyges, 74

WARWICK, R.I. – Karen Eyges died Nov. 16 at home. Born in Brighton, Mass., a daughter of the late Nathaniel and Sylvia (Dorn) Eyges, she had lived in Warwick for 15 years, previously living in Cambridge, Mass. She was a buyer for the former Liss Department Stores for 19 years and the owner of the former Ms. Liss of Fall River, Mass., for five years, retiring in 1990.

She was the devoted mother of Andrew Liss and his wife, Dianna, of Fall River, and Jeffrey Liss of Fall River. She was the dear sister of Richard Eyges of Chestnut Hill, Mass. and the late Bonnie Berthiaume. She was the loving grandmother of Paige Sullivan. Contributions in her memory may be made to Jewish Seniors Agency of RI or the Louis & Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry, both located at 100 Niantic Ave., Cranston, RI 02907.

Warren Fish, 91

CRANSTON, R.I. – Warren Fish passed away peacefully at his home on Nov. 18 with his family by his side. He was the beloved husband of Hope (Soren) Fish for 68 years. Born in the Bronx, N.Y., a son of the late Max and Rose (Weisberg) Fish, he had lived in Cranston for 58 years, previously living in Warwick.



He was president of the retail division of Morse Shoes until his retirement 29 years ago. Warren was a WWII Army veteran. He attended Bryant College and was a member of Touro Fraternal Association, AARP and Potowomut Golf Club. Warren was an avid golfer and sports fan, loved playing bridge and loved nothing more than to cheer on his New York Yankees and New England Patriots.

He was the devoted father of Deborah Thomas and her husband, Lewis, and Arlene Lantini and her husband, Gil. He was the dear brother of the late Martin Fish. He was the loving grandfather of Gil Lantini II and his wife, Michelle and Ryan Lantini and his wife, Heather. He was the proud great-grandfather of Nina and Victor. Contributions in his memory may be made to Hope Hospice & Palliative Care, 1085 North Main St., Providence, RI 02904.

Muriel Freedman, 93

Muriel "Mim" (Gittleman) Freedman, of Providence, passed away on Nov. 19. She was the beloved wife of the late Zill Freedman. She was the devoted mother of Nancy Weissman and her husband, David, of Miami, Fla., Jo Fleming of Medway, Mass., and Debbie Freedman and her husband, Bob Tripp of Mattapoisett, Mass. She was the cherished grandmother of Stephen and his wife, Jennifer Fleming, Lauren and her husband, Jerry Holly, and Daniel and Kevin Tripp. She was the proud great-grandmother of Benjamin and Jackson Fleming, and Kendall Holly. Donations in her memory may be made to the charity of your choice.

David C. Isenberg, 73

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – David C. Isenberg passed away Nov. 12. He was born in Providence, the son of the late Jacob and Dorothy (Sherman) Isenberg.



David was a graduate of Hope High School in Providence and Boston University. He was a founder of Chex Finer Foods and served as the company's president for 25 years. He was a board member of: Temple Beth-El, Temple Emanu-El, Providence Children's Museum, Friends of Rochambeau Library, Miriam Hospital Board of Governors, Camp JORI and Providence Rotary.

David cared deeply about and generously supported many community organizations and programs including: Jewish Alliance of Greater R.I. – Isenberg Family Early Childhood Center, Isenberg Family Playground, Children's Playground at Temple Habonim; Jewish Family Service of RI – Isenberg Family Kosher Nutrition Program and Isenberg Music Series; Providence Public Library; Isenberg Family Children's Library; Temple Beth-El – Isenberg Atrium and Isenberg Family Fund; The Wheeler School – Isenberg Auditorium; and Dana Farber Cancer Institute Isenberg Fund for Pancreatic Cancer Research.

He is survived by his children Michael Isenberg, Jeremy Isenberg and Rachel Isenberg; former wife Dianne Isenberg; daughters-in-law Karen Isenberg and Amanda Isenberg; grandchildren Sophie, Caleb, Lily and Samantha; and companion Nancy Maloney.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Jewish Family Service, 959 North Main St., Providence, RI 02904.

Beatrice Litner, 94

Beatrice (Goldman) Litner, of Warwick, Milton, Mass., and Florida, died on Nov. 10. She was the beloved wife of the late Sidney Litner. She was the loving mother of Barry Litner and his wife, Myong, Nancy Peterson and her husband, Jim, Michael Litner and his wife, Jane. She was the cherished grandmother of Richard, Steven, Lisa, Stacey and David and step-grandmother of, Deena and Lianna and great-grandmother of Sadie, Estee, Benjamin, Abby and Lily. She was the dear sister of Sylvia Gould.



Beatrice, known as Bea to her family, was a bookkeeper in Boston for many years, then retired to Deerfield Beach, Fla., with Sidney. Bea was an avid reader, enjoyed crossword puzzles, made wonderful mundel bread, icebox cakes, cracky bars and was always prepared to offer a meal to an unexpected guest. Donations can be made to Hope Hospice & Palliative Care, 1085 North Main St., Providence, RI 02904 or Tamarisk Assisted Living, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick, RI 02886.

Stuart Mendelson, 73

GRANTS PASS, ORE. – Stuart "Stu" M. Mendelson, of Grants Pass, died Nov. 11. He was the beloved husband of Susan Mendelson.

Born in Providence, the son of the late Harry and Frances Mendelson, he had lived in Oregon for over 30 years.

Stu was a baker well known in Grants Pass for his breads and bagels. For many years, he and his wife operated their own bakery out of their residence. Stu was also a talented and prolific artist who drew, painted and sculpted in many media.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his two daughters, Rachel (Jerome Boettner) and Rebecca (Matt Allhands); seven grandchildren; his two sisters, Brenda Brown and Sandra Kopel, of Providence; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Stanley Talmud, 74

ROCKVILLE, Md. – Stanley Joseph Talmud passed away Nov. 9. He was the husband of Paula Lyn (Goldberg) Talmud; they were married for 42 years. He was born in York, Pa., a son of the late Louis and Eleanor (Hertz) Talmud.



Stanley served in the U.S. Air Force. He was a member of Beth Joshua Congregation. He was very involved in the Jewish Community in the Greater Washington area for more than 50 years.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his daughters Lisa Beth Talmud and Melynda Schudrich, her husband, Nathaniel, brother Maurice Talmud, and grandchildren, David, Asher and Ezra. He was the brother of the late Martin, Herbert and Sidney Talmud and Lucille Soffer.

Contributions in his memory may be made to The Alzheimer's Foundation of America, www.alzfdn.org.

Maurice Wine, 89

CRANSTON, R.I. – Maurice (Moe) A. Wine, of Cranston, died at home on Nov. 16 surrounded by his loving children. He was born on Oct. 6, 1927, in Providence to the late Louis and Julia Wine. He was the beloved husband of the late Charlotte P. Wine.

When he returned from World War II he attended Bryant College, earning a degree in accounting. He was a career accountant, ultimately retiring in 1990 from De Felice Realty. He was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael and Temple Am David, and was an active member in both of their men's clubs. He belonged to the Touro Fraternal Association and South Providence Hebrew Free Loan.

He is survived by his daughter Lois and her husband Ron, and his son Gary and his wife Emily, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Frances Dorsch, and the late Rosaline Blazer. Donations may be made to Hope Hospice and Palliative Care Rhode Island, 1085 North Main St., Providence, RI 02904 or a charity of your choice.

Miriam Zenofsky, 72

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Miriam S. (Margolis) Zenofsky died Nov. 12. She was the wife of the late Allan S. Zenofsky. She was born in Providence, the daughter of the late Morris and Beatrice (Soltz) Margolis.

She is survived by her children Amy Bergeron and her husband, Tim, and David Zenofsky; and grandchildren TJ and Keaton Bergeron.

Contributions in her memory may be made to The Dana Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284.

Jewish Oberlin professor's house vandalized

JTA – The home of a Jewish professor at Oberlin College was vandalized and a note reading "Gas Jew Die" was left at his front door.

The professor has been identified by police as Benjamin Kuperman, an associate professor at the school and chair of the computer science department. The incident occurred early Nov. 17. Kuperman and his wife are Jewish.

Belongings on Kuperman's front porch were damaged and the note, made of letters cut from newspapers, was stuck under the mezuzah affixed to the home's doorpost, according to reports.

Oberlin Police Chief Juan Torres told Fox News that the incident was being investigated as a hate crime. In an email to students, Oberlin College President Marvin Krislov called it: "a cowardly, hateful act."

"As the General Faculty discussed yesterday, this is a moment of great stress and consternation, both nationally and locally. We will need each other's continued compassion and support at this time; please take care of yourselves, your families and your loved ones. As our community grieves for the loss of dignity and personal/physical safety that comes with these sorts of vile attacks, these events also can galvanize us in our resolve to fight bigotry and hatred wherever and whenever they occur," he wrote.

Last week, an Oberlin assistant professor whose anti-Semitic social media posts outraged many alumni and faculty was dismissed by the college's board of trustees.

Tribute to the remarkable Ruth Gruber

BY CYNTHIA YOKEN

Ruth Gruber was one of the most remarkable voices of our generation. She died on Nov. 17, 2016, at the age of 105. My husband, Mel, and I knew Ruth Gruber well, and we visited her each time we went to New York City. We last visited just two weeks ago on Oct. 29. It was a pleasure to visit with Ms. Gruber in her beautiful apartment on Central Park West.

We always were amazed to see Ruth, who welcomed us with a broad smile, looking so beautiful, dressed in bright colors with beads around her neck. We loved to talk to her about her long life; she was the first woman to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Cologne in Germany at the age of 21. Her thesis on the writer Virginia Woolf was a feminist's analysis of Woolf's writings, and she even met and spoke with the preeminent writer. On a recent visit, Ruth told us how she was in Germany at one of the rallies for Hitler. When she came back to the United States, she worked as a foreign journalist and accompanied an expedition to the Soviet Arctic.



During World War II, Ruth Gruber was appointed special assistant to Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, and she carried out a study to see if returning veterans could settle in Alaska. In 1944, Ickes made her a "Simulated General," and she returned to Italy to bring a group of about 1,000 Jewish refugees from Europe to the United States on the Henry Gibbins. These refugees were to be guests of the U.S. and were housed at Fort Ontario in Oswego, New York. Gruber petitioned for them to stay in the United States, and many of them made wonderful contributions to the country. Her book "Haven," which was later made into a movie, chronicles the experiences of these refugees.

After the war, as a photojournalist, Ruth covered stories for the plight of Jewish refugees trying to enter Palestine. She took pictures and interviewed these refugees and was right there as they came to Palestine in 1947 on the ship Exodus. This was the inspiration of Leon Uris' novel "Exodus." Her postwar coverage included writing about women including "Felisa Rincon DeGautier: The Mayor of San Juan" (1972) and "Raquela: A Woman of Israel" (1978). She also championed the cause of Ethiopian Jews writing "Ethiopian Jews in Rescue: The Exodus of the Ethiopian Jews" (1987). She was also a frequent contributor to Hadassah magazine.

She married Philip Michaels in 1951, and they had two children, David and Celia. After Philip's death, she married Henry Rosner. She came to New Bedford and spoke at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth in 2002.

Among the books she wrote were "They came to Stay" and her latest, "Inside of Time" and "Ahead of Time," which she wrote when she was in her 90s. At our last visit, Ruth did not say much; however, it was clear that she was happy to see us and looking forward to voting.

Ruth Gruber will be missed by all whose lives she touched. She has enabled so many people throughout the world to know what happiness and freedom truly mean. We have been privileged to have known Ruth Gruber, a luminous, courageous and brilliant woman, and to have called her a true friend. Her legacy will always inspire – and enrich – us. She really left an indelible mark on the world.

CYNTHIA YOKEN is co-chair of The Holocaust Education and Memorial Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford.



PHOTO | MARTY COOPER

Workshop for faith leaders

Dr. Michelle Forcier of Hasbro Children's Hospital was the featured speaker at the recent Transgender Workshop for faith leaders. Sponsored by the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, it was held at Bryant University. The Community Relations Council of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island was represented.

ASK THE DIRECTOR

BY MICHAEL D. SMITH F.D./R.E.
Shalom Memorial Chapel

QUESTION: What is the meaning of the term *"nichum avelim"* that I've heard at some funerals?
E.F., Providence

Dear E.F.,
Nichum is a Hebrew term meaning "comfort" and avelim translates to "mourners." When put together, however it could mean either the expression of "comforting mourners" or "sympathy."

QUESTION: After I have preplanned and prepaid my funeral arrangements, what should I do?
G.D., Providence

Dear G.D.,
Notify one or several family members, your attorney, your accountant or perhaps a friend (if you have no immediate family) the name of the funeral home and where your copy of the contract is located. The funeral home can also provide a copy to any person that you designate to receive one.

QUESTIONS ARE WELCOMED AND ENCOURAGED. Please send questions to: ShalomChapel@aol.com or by mail to Ask the Director, c/o Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston, R.I. 02920.

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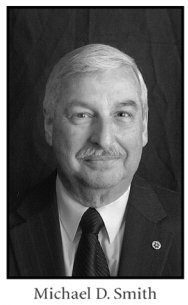
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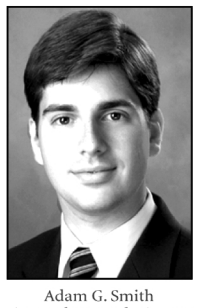
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Another look at Cuba

BY MARK KANTER with LYNNE GLICKMAN

After reading the stories about the Alliance mission to Cuba and M. Charles Bakst's trip to Cuba, in the Oct. 14 edition of The Jewish Voice, we wanted to provide our story about our recent trip to Cuba. My wife, Lynne Glickman, and I traveled to Cuba from Sept. 26 to Oct. 3. We were on a baseball-inspired tour called "Cuba Ball." Both of us are members of the Society for American Baseball Research. I've always had an interest in visiting Cuba especially to see baseball.

We also knew that we wanted to connect with some part of the Jewish community in Cuba. On our first afternoon, we headed to Temple Beth Shalom. Adela Dworin, whom M. Charles Bakst mentioned in his article, warmly greeted us. Along with other tourists from the United States, Israel and Peru, we were given an interesting tour of the sanctuary. While we were there, Dworin invited us to Erev Rosh Hashanah services and a community dinner afterward. Interestingly, she was stymied in her efforts to get apples for the dinner.

M. Charles Bakst is correct when he says that Dworin has a Ph.D. in "schnorring" when it comes to getting any sort of financial aid for the synagogue and Jewish community as a whole. She was delightful and pleasant and cares greatly about the Cuban Jewish community. The gentleman who provided the tour mentioned the Rhode Island mission to us.

We did attend Erev Rosh Hashanah services on Oct. 2. We were moved by the service that was run by the teenagers and young adults of the community. The service was conducted in both Spanish and Hebrew, and the prayer book, from Argentina, was written in Spanish and Hebrew. The language barrier didn't matter as we were happy to be experiencing Rosh Hashanah in Cuba.

About 100 people attended the service. Approximately one-half were Cubans. The rest were from the United States and other countries.

While we thought that the tour would focus on baseball, we began to understand what it was like to visit a communist country. There is no advertising in Cuba. The billboards that exist display pictures of Fidel and/or Raul Castro and sometimes Che Guevera. Public health messages are also displayed.

There is rationing of food. However, apparently Jews can get chicken for Shabbat and holidays without having to get it through the rationing process.

The baseball we saw is on par with minor league, AA, ball as most of the top players have moved to the major leagues,



Lynne Glickman, Mark Kanter with their guide in front of the bimah at Temple Beth Shalom in Havana.

Canada and Japan. The stadiums that we visited were built mostly in the 1940s. They ranged in quality from a Little-League park to a large minor-league stadium.

The government allows family-owned restaurants, referred to as *paladars*. We ate in a number of them. The food that was served was large in portion, so much so that Lynne and I decided to share entrees. We found the food excellently prepared. We were actually hard-pressed to find beans and rice. On our first night, we ate at San Cristobal, the same *paladar* where President Barack and Michelle Obama ate when they visited Cuba in late March. Also, they attended a baseball game between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Cuban National team in Havana.

Cubans, who seem happy, get free health care, and children participate in an excellent educational system. Petty crime is the only crime that seems to exist. Firearms are illegal. It is safe to walk the streets day and night. Many American automobiles from the 1950s serve as taxis. We also saw some nurses in white uniforms complete with hats, reminiscent of the 1950s in the U.S.

While there, we had no cellphone or internet connectivity. There is some limited internet capability in the hotels. For Cuban citizens there are hot spots in Havana where they can go to use cellphones and tablets to access the internet and make calls. We saw people on the street where we could tell they were using a camera to be seen and to see the remote person. It was exciting to watch.

When we informed people in the service industry that were on a baseball tour, every one of them said that they wanted to travel, especially to the states. They were disappointed that they did not have the ability to travel to see Derek Jeter or David Ortiz play, in person.

The trip afforded us the opportunity to see a country that is very different from our own, from the lack of advertising, to the rationing of food and free health care – in many ways a time warp to the 1950s. However, we did find common ground in the people and players who love to watch and play baseball as well as with the Jewish community of Havana.

MARK KANTER and **LYNNE GLICKMAN** live in Portsmouth.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island seeks to identify and fund new, innovative, and local projects. Innovation grants aim to provide resources and support to those looking to explore and imagine creative and ground-breaking solutions to our greatest community challenges.



Innovation Grants

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- Programs that are new, creative, impactful, measurable, sharable, and possibly replicable on a larger scale based upon need, future resources, and programmatic success
- Projects addressing an issue or concern not being served, or being under-served community-wide
- Collaborative projects that involve multiple organizations and cross-disciplines
- Ideas designed to tap creativity that exists beyond the traditional and build a more open, welcoming community where all who want to participate in Jewish life can easily do so
- Opportunities that create meaningful connections for long-term commitment

For inquiries prior to submission:

Minna Ellison
mellison@jewishallianceri.org
401.421.4111 ext. 176

Jennifer Zwirn
jzwirn@jewishallianceri.org
401.421.4111 ext. 102

For more information, visit
jewishallianceri.org/innovate

Deadline for submissions is December 22, 2016.
Each grant may be considered for up to $20,000 in funding.
Only local Jewish agencies, or individuals sponsored by a local 501(c)(3) may apply.

Jewish Alliance
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND



PHOTO | DIVE MASTER FROM THE COKI BEACH DIVE SHOP

WE ARE READ – Allan Shear of Woonsocket took The Voice underwater while scuba diving in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, in November. The Shears were on a cruise when they went diving at Coki Beach.

Touro Fraternal Association
and The Jewish Voice

HANUKKAH 2016
Art & Writing Contest

ENTRY FORM

Name of Student _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Adress _____

School Attending _____

Grade _____

Completed Entry Forms and Essays/Art Work should be mailed to:

Subject: Hanukkah Contest
The Jewish Voice
401 Elmgrove Avenue
Providence, RI 02906

Entries must be postmarked
no later than December 9, 2016.
For more information please email to
info@tourofraternal.org
or
lcamara@JewishAllianceRI.org

the JEWISH VOICE

1918 ~ 2018

Touro Fraternal Association
and **The Jewish Voice** announce the

HANUKKAH 2016
Art & Writing Contest

What's the Contest About?

Students in grades 1-4 are invited to
DRAW or PAINT a picture and;
Students in grades 5-8 are invited to write a
SHORT ESSAY or POEM on the following theme:

- My Hanukkah Tzedakah idea

Who's Eligible?

Jewish students grades 1 thru 8.

Are there Prizes?

Prizes will be awarded in each category:

First Prize - $108
Second Prize - $72
Third Prize - $36

First prize winner's school or synagogue will receive a technology-related gift valued at approximately $720 (ex. laptop, computer station, camera...)

Entry Details

- Visit thejewishvoice.org or tourofraternal.org
- Download entry form
- Include name of school or synagogue on entry form
- Submit hard copy of drawing or essay with entry form to:

Subject: Hanukkah Contest
The Jewish Voice
401 Elmgrove Avenue
Providence, RI 02906

Entries must be postmarked no later than **December 9**

Winners Announced...

- A panel of judges will be chosen by Touro Fraternal Association and The Jewish Voice
- In celebration of Hanukkah and to present the prizes to the winners, Touro Fraternal Association will host a Hanukkah party December 18

1918 ~ 2018

the JEWISH VOICE

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Touro Fraternal Association reserves the right to determine the range and scope of gifts.



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