the JEWISH VOICE

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Serving Rhode Island and
Southeastern Massachusetts

26 Tishri 5777 | October 28, 2016

BAR | BAT MITZVAH

How all the Jewish MLB players did in 2016

BY RON KAPLAN

JTA – This season promised to be a banner year for Jewish Major League Baseball players – and by and large, the class of '16 fared pretty well. Many had their best seasons in years and fans were introduced to a couple of promising newcomers.

As the big league calendar reaches its climax with the World Series, here's a look at what all the Jewish major leaguers accomplished (or not) during the regular season.

Ian Kinsler, Detroit Tigers, second baseman

Kinsler set a franchise record with eight leadoff home runs in

BASEBALL | 26



Clockwise from top left: Ian Kinsler, Danny Valencia, Kevin Pillar, Joc Pederson



PHOTO | VOICE FILES

At the 2015 Challah Bake, everyone got involved.

The bake is back

BY FRAN OSTENDORF
fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org

If you missed the first couple of years of this annual event, you don't want to miss out again. The Great Rhode Island Challah Bake is back for a third year. As with each year, the promise is for an amazing event, according to organizers.

Women and girls are invited to discover the rich meaning of challah on Nov. 10. There will be braiding tips, an inspiring speaker, camaraderie and shared experience. And the end result? Each participant will take home two delicious challahs for Shabbat.

This Challah Bake in Little Rhody is part of a worldwide event. Whether you are in Los Angeles, Chicago, Barcelona or London, thousands of women around the world will be baking challah on the same day. This takes place right before the Shabbos Project weekend.

In Rhode Island, there is space for 200 women and girls to sign up for the event that takes place at 6:30 p.m. at Brown RISD Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence. Cost is $10 per person. RSVP to thegreatchallahbake@gmail.com.

FRAN OSTENDORF is the editor of The Jewish Voice.

OP-ED

Dylan over Roth? The Nobel Committee made the right choice



Bob Dylan

BY LARRY YUDELSON

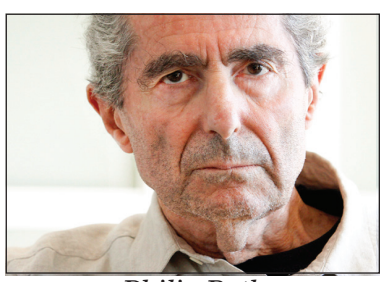
JTA – As a fan who runs the "Bob Dylan: Tangled Up in Jews" website, I should have been ecstatic at the Nobel Prize in Literature being awarded to the writer whose words have been the soundtrack of my life since I first sang them at a Jewish summer camp some 40-odd years ago.

However, as an editor of a New Jersey Jewish newspaper located just 23 miles from the Newark neighborhood of Weequahic where Philip Roth grew up and placed so much of his fiction, I should have been heartbroken that Roth, also rumored to be a contender for the prize, lost out – again.

So, why Dylan and not Roth?

Roth, 83, and Dylan, 75, have a great deal in common. Both are the grandchildren of Jewish immigrants. Their families were

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Philip Roth



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THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE

"When we do what is wrong, we punish ourselves with self-recrimination ... ."

Arts Emanu-El kicks off season with film, speaker on Kindertransport

BY LINDA SHAMOON

In 1938, a young, successful British stockbroker decided to take a ski vacation in Switzerland. Then, he got diverted. He went to Prague instead, set up an office at the dining room table in his hotel, and organized an effort to get Jewish children out of Nazi-threatened Czechoslovakia and to safety in England. By the time the Nazis shut down his efforts, 18 months later, Nicholas Winton had rescued 669 Jewish children. Winton then quietly returned to England, seeking no publicity or gratitude for his efforts.

Why did Winton decide to organize this rescue and then tell no one about it? How did he do it? What happened to those children?

One of those rescued children, Eva Paddock, now 80 years old, tells her story, along with a showing of "Nicky's Family," the gripping, inspirational film account of the rescue operation and its aftermath, at Temple Emanu-El, in Providence, on Saturday, Nov. 19, at 7:30 p.m. Those who attend are advised to bring handkerchiefs, yes, but also to know they will leave thinking more deeply about how one person's acts of kindness can inspire countless others to do good in a dangerous world.



Nicholas Winton with a Kindertransport child.



Eva Paddock

Winton, who the British press called the "British Schindler," barely spoke about his rescue work with anyone for more than half a century. Then his wife found a suitcase in their attic, full of documents and transport plans, and slowly, the facts, the drama and the identities of the 669 children became public. After that, dozens of Winton's "children," along with many of their descendants, were located, and for the first time in their lives, they were given details about their rescue. That emotional discovery is documented in the film.

In addition, thousands of children in many countries have learned about the story and decided to follow in Winton's footsteps. They have been inspired to create their own "Winton Projects," as they are now called, to help children in need around the world. This story, too, is part of the film, and these children, too, consider themselves part of Nicky's family. In addition, 120,000 children in the Czech Republic have signed a petition to award Nicholas Winton the Nobel Peace Prize.

Paddock, the guest speaker for the evening, was 3 years old when she was put on the Kindertransport in Czechoslovakia. She sat in total silence throughout the journey, as she and her sister traveled through Europe to England. They were then placed with a family in Lancaster, in a tiny home without an indoor toilet. But Paddock considers herself lucky.

"We were two of the very rare and fortunate Kindertransport children whose parents survived," she said in an interview with the Boston Jewish Journal Online on June 27, 2013.

The girls were reunited with their parents in England after the end of the war. Many years later, Paddock married, moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, with her own family, pursued a professional career and learned more and more about Winton's Kindertransport.

In 2009, Paddock gathered with 21 of the rescued for a reenactment of their Kindertransport journey in 1939, retracing the exact trip all the way through Europe to England.

Today, Paddock talks often and gladly about her experiences, and about Nicholas Winton.

"The films about Nicholas Winton are extremely important as part of the documentary legacy of events relating to the Holocaust, particularly in the effect they can have on young people, who can see firsthand how one person can have an enormous effect on the lives of others just by seeing a humanitarian need and acting on it," she says.

This program is the first of five events to be brought to the community this season by Arts Emanu-El at Temple Emanu-El. The series includes a musical and film tribute to the American and Yiddish film star Molly Picon, then two art exhibits in March, and a final, family-friendly, event on April 30: A 69th birthday celebration of Israel's independence, *Yom ha'Atzmaut*, with live music, Israeli dancing and a film, "Above and Beyond." For details, go to Temple Emanu-El's website, teprov.org, and click on "What's Happening" and then "Arts Emanu-El."

To purchase tickets for "Nicky's Family" and Eva Paddock's talk on Nov. 19, go to teprov.org, or send a check to: Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, RI 02906 (with note: "Nicky's Family"). Tickets are $10 in advance, $15 at the door, and include the film, light refreshments and the talk.

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



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Dwares JCC to start pickleball league in January

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

A recreational pickleball league is making its debut at the Dwares Jewish Community Center's fitness center this winter.

Pickleball is a relatively new sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis. Players use paddles – not pickles, as one might imagine – to smack a perforated plastic ball back and forth on a large court.

The USA Pickleball Association's website says the sport got its start in 1965 on Bainbridge Island, Washington, when three children became bored with their usual summer activities. Their fathers improvised, and eventually developed a new sport. From there, the USAPA says, the sport spread across the United States and Canada; today there are some 15,000 indoor and outdoor pickleball courts across North America.

Rob Castellucci, the J-Fitness youth sports coordinator, says J-Fitness members are eagerly anticipating the new league.

"Members – especially older folks – have been asking about getting pickleball in here for a while, so I believe it will be a success," says Castellucci. "I think we will be able to get the younger crowd involved as well, and it will become a fun event for all ages to get together and enjoy."

The JCC's league will run on Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m., from Jan. 10 to March 14. Teams will have four players, and people can join in full teams or as individuals, twosomes or trios who will be matched with other players. Games will be two against two and team members will play on a rotating basis.



Dori Venditti and Rob Castellucci demonstrate pickleball play.

PHOTO | THE JEWISH VOICE

Dori Venditti, general manager of J-Fitness, says pickleball is a versatile sport that can be enjoyed by virtually anybody.

"It's very easy to just jump in and start playing," she says, while adding that the new league is also suitable for more advanced players.

The league will be 18+ in its first season, but Venditti says there is a possibility of a youth league in the future since the sport is one that can be enjoyed by all.

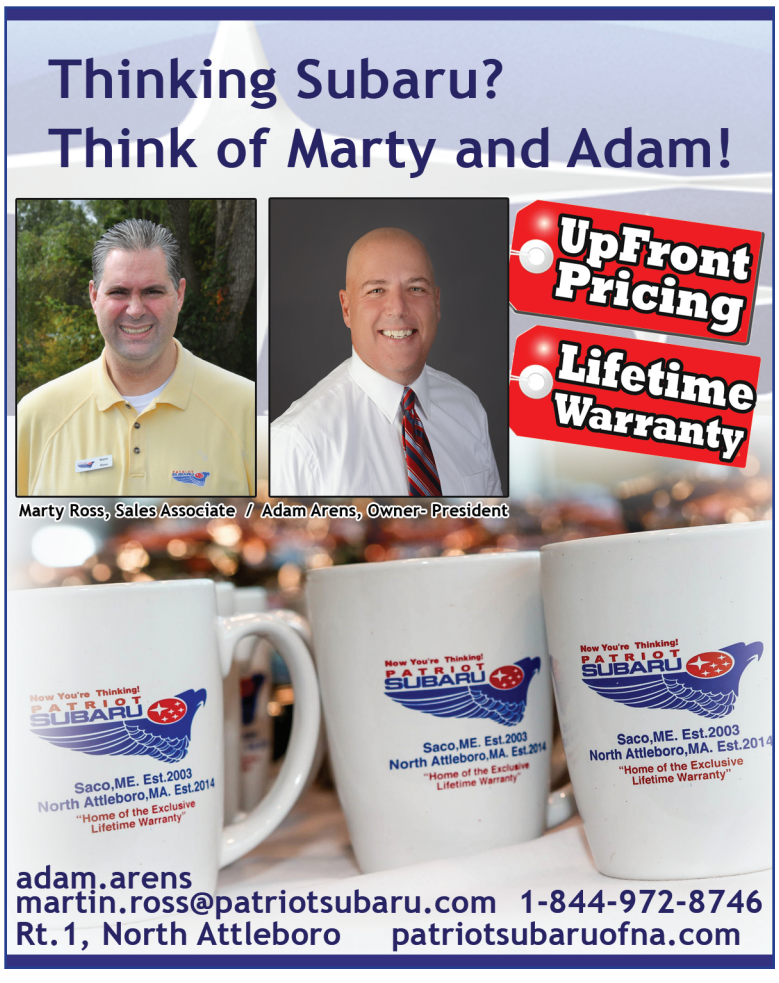
"It appeals to all ages, and you can mesh together different age levels pretty seamlessly," she says.

The cost to register is $100 per person, or $60 for members. The registration fee includes a pickleball paddle, which players can keep after the season ends. Registration will open in November and end on Dec. 9. Contact Rob Castellucci at rcastellucci@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 129, with questions or to sign up.

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

Did you know?

- Pickleball is played either as doubles or singles; doubles is most common.
- The court is 20 x 44 feet, similar to a doubles badminton court.
- The serve must be made underhand. Paddle contact with the ball must be below the server's waist.
- Points are scored only by the serving team. Games are normally played to 11 points, win by 2 points.
- When the ball is served, the receiving team must let it bounce before returning and the serving team must let it bounce before returning. Then play proceeds by either volley or single bounce.





A *sukkah* of our own

BY NOEL RUBINTON

Gratitude. That's the word I most often associate with the holiday of *Sukkot*, and this year there was something else, something enormous, to be thankful for: After seven years of wandering through life without a *sukkah* of our own, my family got one again.

In the New York suburbs for years, our house had a porch just right for a *sukkah*. But then in city apartment living, first in New York City and now in Providence, we hadn't found a way to have one – even a temporary structure isn't allowed when you don't own the land. We still had plenty of holiday joy in those years without a *sukkah* of our own as we visited those of our synagogues, other Jewish institutions, and, in New York, places like the corner bagel shop. Yet, it wasn't the same.

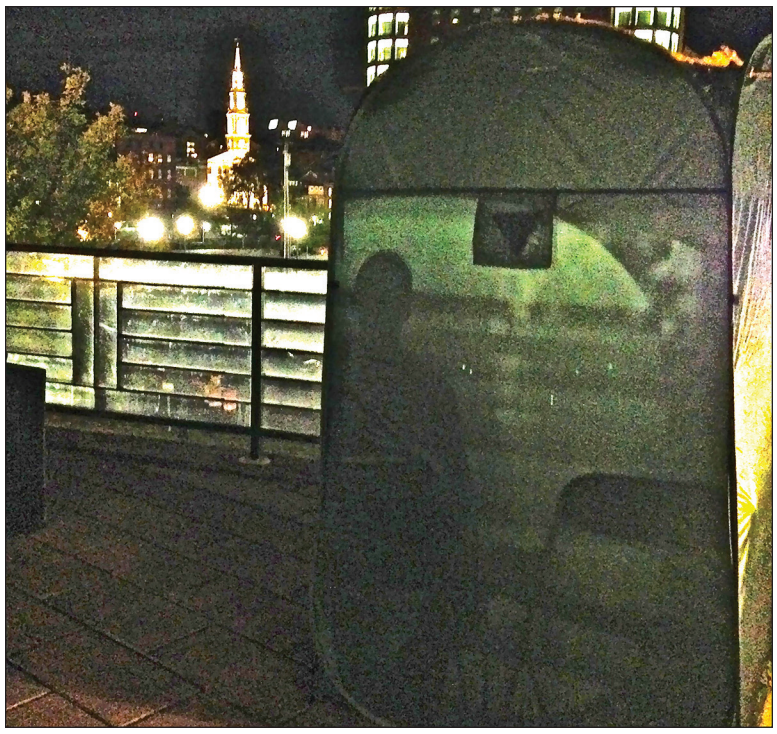
Then the marvels of engineering smiled upon us. We found and bought our new *sukkah* online, one that literally pops up, a wonder of miniaturized engineering. It starts, and ends up, smaller than the size of a trashcan lid. It magically transformed the courtyard of our Providence apartment building into our little corner of a historic biblical land. Yes, the rules of where we lived meant putting it up and taking it down each time we wanted to use it, but that seemed doable, and with practice it got easier.

As we sat in our tiny *sukkah* designed for two people, looking out over downtown and College Hill, there was a wonderful feeling of calm and a sense of great beauty. Seeing the huge full moon of *Sukkot* over the city was a breathtaking reminder that we were beneath the same moon that our ancestors saw in the wilderness.

Sukkot are powerful symbols of impermanence, which encourages appreciation for the more permanent. For one week, the *sukkah* is a center of life, and then it goes away completely for a year. Whether on a patio of a house or free-standing like ours, a *sukkah* calls for intentionality and creative flexibility. It disrupts your routine, and offers the chance for a new normal where the unusual is enjoyed.

Besides giving you a greater appreciation of the permanent, the gratitude of *Sukkot* comes up in *ushpizin*, showing hospitality in welcoming guests. *Sukkot* is a holiday closely connected to the idea of kindness of spirit and more. We had the chance to share our *sukkah* with guests, including a couple who have long been generous to us.

When we think back to our ancestors, we are reminded of how hard it must have been to put together *sukkah* in the wilderness where life was already so fragile. In the modern world, and especially in the urban landscape, we see those struggling without homes transporting their belongings, enduring great hardships. For us to dwell in booths for one week a year is a luxury and a blessing because we can make that choice. For many, possessing even a temporary structure is beyond reach, and so *Sukkot* is a reminder of the importance of helping them, in recognition and thanks for our blessings.



The Rubintons' sukkah.

Sukkot is over for this year, but it will be long remembered. Next year's will be eagerly anticipated, with the opportunity of keeping alive until then the holiday's spirit of gratitude and responsibility for helping those in need. Having our sukkah stored in a small bag in our apartment is a warm reminder of the season just past, and of the possibilities ahead.

NOEL RUBINTON is a consultant and writer based in Providence.



The Felder family has been making their sukkah *with corn stalk walls for more than 30 years. It creates a rural and fall feel for all who enter.*



PHOTO | TAMARISK

Holiday under the sukkah *at The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Facility in Warwick. Pictured, left to right, Annette Pomerantz, Goldie Greene, Eleanor Paul and Lillian Lewis.*



PHOTO | IRIS JACOBS

Cantor Iris Jacobs was inspired to use the trellis on the patio at Laurelmead as a base for a sukkah. *She initiated a* Sukkot *celebration on Oct. 16. She and her daughter, who is visiting from British Columbia, explained the* Sukkot *traditions and sang. Cantor Iris and others are meeting daily for lunch and the waving of the lulav. She hopes that this will become a Laurelmead tradition.*

the JEWISH VOICE

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Read a book by a local author

BY LARRY KATZ

Are you going to participate in the Jewish community reading program? This new initiative encourages members of the greater Rhode Island Jewish community to read a single book of his/her choice in the next three months. These should be nonfiction books of Jewish content. To celebrate how we have each broadened our knowledge, there will be a special event on Jan. 22, 2017.

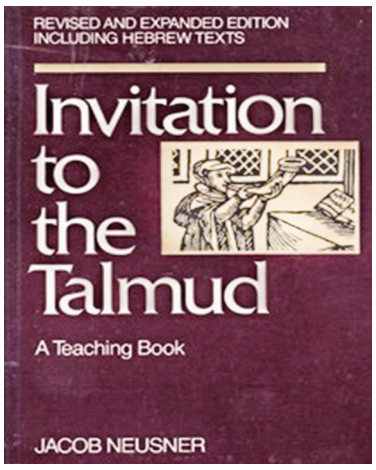
This program is sponsored by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island, Kollel: Center for Jewish Studies, PJ library, and Project Shoresh.

If you are looking for a book by a local author, you may want to consider one of the authors below. Many of the following authors have been quite prolific, so the books listed here are only a single nonfiction suggestion, generally not academic, from each person's many works. They are in no particular order.

Michael Satlow explores the origins of the Jewish Bible in "How the Bible Became Holy." He details how various biblical books became authoritative within our tradition. Satlow is currently a professor at Brown University.

Shaye J. D. Cohen, Satlow's predecessor at Brown, now at Harvard, wrote "From the Maccabees to the Mishnah." This book examines how Judaism developed during the early Roman Empire, which includes the transition from a Temple-centered religion to Rabbinic Judaism.

Judith Romney Wegner, who also taught at Brown, is the author of "Chattel or Person?: The Status of Women in the Mishnah." This work was written about the early Rabbinic period, so it overlaps with the time period that Cohen deals with.



Jacob Neusner, who recently passed away, was also at Brown, before moving on to other universities. He is acclaimed as the author and/or editor of about 950 books. "Invitation to the Talmud" is his introduction to the major religious and literary work of Rabbinic Judaism upon which most Rabbinic literature refers.

David I. Kertzer, who was provost of Brown for several years, wrote "The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara." This event took place in 1858 in Italy, and is the first such kidnapping of a Jewish child by the Catholic Inquisition to catch the world's attention.

David C. Jacobson, another professor at Brown, specializes in Hebrew literature. Poetry is central to Jewish religious experience and prayer. In "Creator, Are You Listening?: Israeli Poets on God and Prayer," Jacobson offers the poetry of Israelis who are not necessarily traditionally religious.

Not all local authors are connected so strongly to Brown University.

Ronald Florence, who is both a novelist and a historian, wrote a biography of two people who helped Britain conquer parts of the Ottoman Empire a century ago. Aaron Aaronson may not be as famous as "Lawrence of Arabia," but he was more famous at the time and led a Jewish underground. Their wartime exploits are detailed in "Lawrence and Aaronsohn: T. E. Lawrence, Aaron Aaronsohn, and the Seeds of the Arab-Israeli Conflict."

William F. Miles teaches at Northeastern University. In "Afro-Jewish Encounters: From Timbuktu to the Indian Ocean and Beyond," Miles presents several stories of encounters between Jews and Africans, in what may seem like exotic settings.

Marjorie Ingall, who grew up in Providence, wrote an entirely different type of book, "*Mamaleh* Knows Best: What Jewish Mothers Do to Raise Successful, Creative, Empathetic, Independent Children." This book is a parenting book for the 21st century, with an emphasis on raising a *mensch* rather than a Nobel laureate.

There are certainly many more local authors – of cookbooks, novels and literature, even of more books of Jewish nonfiction. Please feel free to share your own recommendations by writing to lkatz@jewishallianceri.org.

What would you like to read? For recommendations of books, and to register, check out our website at www.jewishallianceri.org/read, or feel free to call your rabbi or neighbors. Please sign up at this website, as well, so that we know how many are participating and to receive notices related to this reading program. A community that learns together grows together!

LARRY KATZ is director of Jewish Life and Learning at the Jewish Alliance.

Temple Habonim Presents
Rabbi Irwin Kula
Sunday, October 30, 2016
3:30 - 5:00 pm with a light dinner following



Temple Habonim invites the entire
Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts
community to join us as Rabbi Irwin Kula
leads the following discussion:

Time For A New God

Many of us no longer experience the Biblical or Rabbinic theistic God of traditional monotheism as vital, real or compelling.
How do we think about and connect to God in the early 21st century?
What do we experience when we say OMG?
Perhaps it is Time For A New God.

The program is free and open to the community.

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TEMPLE HABONIM

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

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

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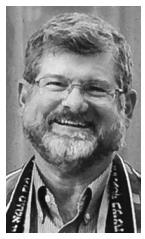
(Fee includes all materials and the Joint Shabbat Dinner on March 24, 2017 at Temple Beth-El.)



For more information on class dates and how to register contact:
Judith Gilson
EMAIL: JGilson@Temple-Beth-El.org
WEBSITE: www.Temple-Beth-El.org
PHONE: 401-331-6070

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We can master our feelings – or let them master us



RABBI JEFFREY GOLDWASSER

What makes people sin? How do they avoid it? Does God punish sinners in this world? Does God reward the righteous in this world?

This week's Torah portion (*B'reishit*) – the first in the Torah – includes a story that introduces some of Judaism's central moral questions. The story of Cain and Abel sets the stage for all the moral deliberations to come in the Torah's pages. Fittingly, the story does not give many answers, but it does offer delicious ambiguities.

Cain and Abel were the first brothers. Cain grew crops and Abel kept flocks. Each gave God the fruit of his labors as an offering. Cain brought the grain he grew and Abel brought the prize of his herd. For some reason, though, God liked Abel's offering better. Cain was devastated.

The story immediately forces us to deal with an undisguised bitter truth – life is unfair. Sometimes God shines on one person and not on another for no apparent reason. The first crime comes about as a result of Cain's inability to deal with this truth.

God saw Cain's distress and pondered some moral philosophy with him. God asked Cain (I'm paraphrasing Genesis 4:6-7), "Isn't it true that there is uplift for doing good? And isn't it true that if you don't do what is good, you invite disaster upon yourself? Buck up, Cain. If you don't master your feelings, your feelings will be masters over you!"

Cain did not take the hint. In what we can only imagine to have been a fit of jealousy, Cain murdered his brother Abel. God saw and told Cain the consequences. He would no longer be able to raise food from the ground. He would be cursed for spilling his brother's blood on the earth.

At this point in the story, we can wonder what the meaning behind all this might be. The story seems to say that when we deal with disappointment, frustration, injustice and deprivation in life, we have a choice. We can either make the best of it and strive to do what is right, despite life's capricious hardships, or we can let our emotions get the better of us and follow the impulse toward spite, revenge, jealousy, brooding, self-isolation, and doing harm to others. If we follow that course, the story says, we will just end up hurting ourselves. We will remove ourselves from the things that ought to sustain us. We will be cursed.

The best thing to do, then, is to be on guard for those self-destructive impulses. We all experience such feelings at some point in our lives – whether in response to bad luck or to other people's bad behavior – but what separates the good from the wicked is the ability to recognize and rein in these tendencies. The failure to do so, the story suggests, is the essence of sin. Sin is the weakness of the soul in dealing with not getting what we want.

After receiving his punishment, Cain cried out to God, and his words are mysterious and revealing. In Hebrew, he says, "*gadol avoni minso*" (Genesis 4:13). Many translations render this as, "My punishment is too great to bear," and that makes sense. Cain felt self-pity for being driven from the land that had been his life's work. He complained that he would be a wanderer over the earth and that, as a murderer, anyone who met him would be justified in killing him. He couldn't bear to live that way.

But the Hebrew word *avoni* is ambiguous. It can mean "my punishment," but it can also mean "my sin." Cain could have meant, "My sin is too great to bear" – as in, "I can't stand to even think about what I have done." Cain, the first murderer, could also have been the first person to be tormented by guilt.

There is yet another possibility. The word *minso* literally means "from bearing" – but whose "bearing" are we talking about? Cain's or God's? Cain might have confessed that his sin was too great for God to bear – that is, too great for God to forgive. Cain might have believed that murdering his brother was beyond the possibility of atonement. He even says to God in the next verse, "From your face I must hide" (Genesis 4:14). Cain might have believed that, through his actions, he had lost God.

All of these multiple meanings can be seen as forming a complex picture of the nature of sin. When we are weak

FEELINGS | 9

You do make a difference



EDITOR

FRAN OSTENDORF

There aren't many issues in the political realm that I feel strongly enough to write about and advocate for, but voting is one of them.

A little more than two years ago, I wrote about how important it is to vote. That was right before the Rhode Island primary in September 2014. Did anybody listen? Did it change anybody's mind about going to the polls? I don't know. But I feel like it's important to emphasize it again.

This time you really can't ignore the election. Print media is filled with reports of the rhetoric. Television and radio broadcast nonstop commentary. And online you can find reports and discussions that speak to any opinion from left to right, one extreme to the other.

As a matter of fact, if you do not want to hear about this election, you would be hard-pressed to avoid it. (Thankfully, we're not living in a swing state where TV and radio commercials are constant and often vicious.)

I know there are people, especially younger adults and those who are conflicted about how to vote, who say their vote won't count. I find that unsettling.

Every vote counts. Red state. Blue state. It doesn't matter where you live. Your vote counts.

It's not just about the candidates for the top office. There are other contests to be decided. And almost every state has important questions on the ballot that affect your life. Each vote helps to decide how your state and your locality will look in the years to come.

In Rhode Island, there are seven statewide questions on the ballot. Voters are being asked to decide everything from approving constitutional amendments to passing bonds to fund various programs.

In Massachusetts there are four questions on the ballot, from regulating conditions for farm animals to legalizing marijuana. This is where an individual voter has a say in government. You can find information online about all the ballot issues.

Many municipalities in Rhode Island have individual ballot questions. And some have elections for local offices. You have an impact on your town by voting.

There are few excuses that make sense on Nov. 8. Voting is a precious privilege that we should not take lightly.

There are still countries around the world where Election Day is violent and filled with fear. And there are countries where newly announced elections are cause for celebration, when people come out in huge numbers despite threats.

This election has caused many stress-related reactions. According to early data released by the American Psychological Association (for the upcoming annual report about stress in America), about half the people surveyed (52 percent) said that the election "is a very or somewhat significant source of stress in their lives." The breakdown by party is about even. This poll was taken in August. Historical data isn't available.

In October, an ABC news poll found that 46 percent of people agreed that the election was a source of stress in their lives.

Google "Election Stress Disorder." That's the name that some have coined for this very real psychological problem.

None of us needs more stress. Pretty soon, the stress of choosing will be over. I can't help but think how lucky we are to be able to have this reaction. And while you are pondering the alternatives, don't forget to vote.

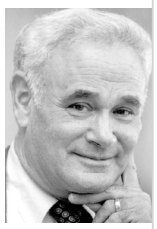
LETTER

Re: Most Jewish baseball team (Oct. 14)

To the staff at JTA, great story about "which major league baseball team is the most Jewish," but you left out some famous stars like Hank Greenberg and Moe Berg. Hank is a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame, plus he refused to play baseball on Yom Kippur. Moe, besides being involved with baseball, was a spy for the United States during WWII. Then there is Craig Breslow, a Yale University graduate, who was nicknamed the "smartest man in baseball" by the Minneapolis Star Tribune (for a while he played for the Red Sox). An unknown Jewish baseball star to most of the world is Ralph Branca, the Brooklyn Dodger pitcher who delivered the home run ball to Bobby Thompson which allowed Bobby's home run to be dubbed "the shot heard round the world." Ralph discovered late in life that his mother was Jewish; coincidently, my father was his dentist and Ralph was his patient.

Michael Schlesinger
Cranston
Former Brooklyn Dodgers fan, then a Met fan; now a PawSox and Red Sox fan

'Mario and the Magician'



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

"Mario and the Magician," a 40-page short story by Thomas Mann (1875-1955), was originally published in German in 1929, with an English translation a year later. At that time, Benito Mussolini, Adolf Hitler and Josef Stalin were all in the process of amassing dictatorial political power.

The story unfolds in the late 1920s at Torre di Venere, Italy, a coastal resort on the Tyrrhenian Sea, not far from Naples. The narrator, who is never named, appears to be an entitled northern European tourist, who holds a manifestly condescending view of the local yokels. He is spending a few weeks in August and early September at Torre with his wife and young son and daughter.

The reader does not meet Cipolla, the magician of the title, until a third of the way through the narrative. However, in the very first paragraph the narrator begins to foreshadow the eventual arrival of this "weird creature": "Cipolla, that dreadful being who seemed to incorporate, in so fateful and so humanly impressive a way, all the peculiar evilness of the situation as a whole."

Further along in the story, but still before Cipolla makes an appearance, the narrator once again anticipates "that fatal Cipolla" and "the unholy and staggering experience of Cipolla."

Cipolla proves to be the consummate showman. He begins his performance by making his audience wait in the large wooden shed that serves as a primitive auditorium, thereby prolonging the suspense.

The narrator describes Cipolla as he finally steps onto the stage: "...his small hard eyes, with flabby patches beneath them, roved appraisingly about the hall..." He was in possession of "a riding-whip with a silver claw-handle that hung by a leather thong from his left forearm and looked decidedly out of place." We soon learn that Cipolla is physically deformed – a visible symbol of his moral deformity – a hunchback, who moves with a deformed gait upon the stage and among the audience, many of whom are weary from a summer of waiting upon wealthy tourists.

Despite his off-putting appearance, his chain-smoking of cheap cigarettes and his continuous sipping of cognac, Cipolla soon develops an uncanny control of those who have come to witness his act. It is clear that his magic is not the magic of sleight-of-hand tricks but that of a hypnotist who delights his audience by seeming to crush the will of selected victims and compelling them to submit to performing embarrassing acts in front of all those present.

He forces one somewhat rude young man to stand up and stick out his tongue and another young man to come up to the stage and kiss him on the cheek near his mouth. Toward the end of the evening, Cipolla calls a number of hypnotized men and women in the audience onto the stage to dance like mind-dead robots; the narrator comments that "the dancing lent a dissolute, abandoned, topsy-turvy air to the scene, a drunken abdication of the critical spirit which had so long resisted the spell of this man." The narrator adds that at least one of the dancers "seemed quite pleased to be relieved of the burden of voluntary choice."

It would seem that an element of the magic of Cipolla's tyrannical domination of the group is the power of his unrestrained insults and humiliations. He brings out the very worst in his audience: while he viciously taunts his hypnotized victims, the onlookers applaud, cheer and laugh. Such is the toxic appeal of the demagogue to the dispossessed.

Cipolla loves the sound of his own voice; he accompanies his performance with almost nonstop patter. Even though his speech is boastful, peevish and often derogatory, his audience eats it up. In response to a brash young man's perceived insult, Cipolla responds in part: "I can boast of having good evenings (as a performer) almost without exception ... And I flatter myself that my achievements have aroused interest and respect among the educated public. The leading newspapers have lauded me ... in Rome the brother of the Duce honored me by his presence at one of my evenings."

At times, Cipolla resorts to speaking in the third person, as if to underscore his absolute authority: "Even when Cipolla makes a mistake, it is a kind that makes you believe in him."

And yet, as the narrator points out, despite his boastful, arrogant talk, Cipolla seems at his core to be profoundly insecure: "His persistent thin-skinnedness and animosity were in striking contrast to the self-confidence and the worldly success he boasted of."

Seventy years ago or so, the American educator and writer, Robert B. Heilman (1906-2004), commented most perceptively on what Cipolla means for you and for me: "Cipolla really stands for the demagogue type who, whatever the specific political framework, hypnotically dominates a public – partly by trickery, partly by real talent, ... and partly by playing upon a susceptibility which is a real element in his victims."

The more things change, the more they remain the same.

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

Clarification

We want to clarify that J-Fitness at the Dwares JCC, mentioned in *Fitness Journey (Oct. 14)* is affiliated with Body Soul Inspired Personal Training. If you want to learn how a personal trainer can help you attain your wellness goals, contact J-Fitness at 401-421-4111, ext. 152, and speak to one of the dedicated Body Soul professionals.

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).

‘An election like none other’

BY RABBI JEFFREY GOLDWASSER

This year’s High Holy Days posed a dilemma for many American rabbis. Many wondered whether they should speak out in response to the inflammatory rhetoric of the Presidential election, or if they should remain silent lest they appear partisan. Rabbi Jeffrey Goldwasser of Temple Sinai in Cranston, addressed the divisive tone of the campaign in a Yom Kippur sermon. Excerpts are below. You can find the sermon in its entirety at: www.jvhri.org/stories/goldwasser-sermon,5580.

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This has been an election like none other in our lifetimes. It might be like no other election in our nation’s history. But I am not going to talk today about what will happen between now and Election Day. Rather, I would like to talk about what will happen after the election, regardless of the outcome, when we try to pick up the pieces of our democracy.

No sane person could have wanted this election to go the way it has. Even before the election lost its “PG rating” on Friday [Oct. 7], no one could have wanted the ugliness of this election and the deepening divisions in America. This election has lowered us into some dark places in our national character. The lies, the personal smears, the name-calling, the media ambushes, the sleaziness have left us numb. No sane person could have wanted this.

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As it stands today, the United States is divided by a widespread belief that “the other side” is hopelessly corrupt and malevolent beyond redemption. If nobody declares a halt to the divisiveness and anger even after the election is over, will the victor of this election – with just a few percentage points more votes than his or her rival – march triumphantly up Pennsylvania Avenue on Inauguration Day and ignore the way our country has been so painfully divided? Will the losers stew in their resentment, declare the results illegitimate and allow their pain to boil over?

We have seen over the last decade how bad the hyper-partisanship in American politics has gotten. We have seen the federal government shut down for weeks because of partisan bickering. We have seen the Senate refuse to hold hearings on a Supreme Court nominee for seven months and counting. Who doubts, if this trend continues, that the next President will face even worse: Government shutdowns that last, not for weeks, but for months … Senators who threaten to never approve any Supreme Court nominee from a president they don’t like … articles of impeachment delivered on Inauguration Day? That seems to be the way we are heading, and it is a recipe for national disaster.

Or, we will find another way. Because, you know, there is another way. We can learn about it from our nation’s history.

***

We can also learn about this “other way” to face hurt and resentment over the past from our own Jewish tradition. We have a concept in Judaism that corresponds to President Abraham Lincoln’s call for binding up our wounds with forgiveness and humility where there has been hurt and resentment. We call it *t’shuvah*.

***

Last night [*Kol Nidrei*], I talked about how an individual can take on the difficult task of healing his or herself through *t’shuvah*. This morning – on Yom Kippur, the day that is entirely devoted to *t’shuvah* – I offer the same prescription for our society to turn away from the fear and anger that have become the dominant, driving emotions of our society. This is a prescription for us to turn instead toward working together to build a better society and a better world.

FROM PAGE 1

| DYLAN

middle class: Herman Roth was an insurance salesman, Abe Zimmerman had an appliance store in Hibbing, Minnesota. And each was an early herald of the escape from middle class norms that defined the 1960s.

Young Robert Zimmerman dropped out of college, moved to New York City, sought out folk singer Woodie Guthrie as an inspiration and role model, made up fantastical stories about running away from home as a child, and changed his name to Bob Dylan. He would soon be dubbed “the voice of his generation” for warning “mothers and fathers throughout the land” that “the times they are a-changin’.”

Young Philip Roth graduated college, attended graduate school, became a teacher and earned literary respectability with stories in The New Yorker in the late 1950s. His first short stories told of Jews who refused to either fully assimilate or to behave: Jewish soldiers who lied about Yom Kippur to get an extra pass from the army; a child who refused to accept Hebrew school dogma; a suburban Long Island householder who becomes a *Hasid*.

Even before he portrayed an unmarried nice Jewish girl worrying about birth control or a not-so-nice Jewish boy soiling the family dinner, Roth’s willingness to tell the story of his Jewish community in public earned him anger and disapproval, perhaps most famously when he appeared on a 1962 panel at Yeshiva College.

The tone of the evening was summed up in the words of a Yeshiva educator, who wrote, in a letter to the Anti-Defamation League, “What is being done to silence this man?”

For Roth’s and Dylan’s Eastern European forebears, the choice was simple, if not always easy: You were either in the community or out. Were you a Jew or did you abandon the faith? “Fiddler on the Roof,” for example, captures the mood of Russian Jews worried about their children’s fate more than a century ago. Would they fall in love with a Christian and convert? Would they fight for a tradition-annihilating Communist revolution?

In the postwar American Jewish community, these concerns were expressed in the language of sociology. Assimilation or continuity? Exogamy or endogamy? But the question came down to a phrase of black dialect, set down in a story by a Jewish writer, and popularized in a song the senior Roths and Zimmermans possibly danced to during World War II: “Is You Is or Is You Ain’t My Baby?”

Looking at young Philip and young Robert, say, a decade after their bar mitzvahs, it is easy to imagine the dismay of a generation of Jewish mothers and fathers. Their sons and their daughters – certainly Philip and Robert – were beyond their command.

What did this bode for the Jewish people?

The answer turned out to be blowing through the words they wrote and the lives they lived. They were not, despite the very Jewish blessing in a song Dylan wrote for his son Jakob, forever young. Instead, they matured and grew, coupled and uncoupled and recoupled, even grew into nostalgic elders, and along the way, they chronicled and contributed to the mixed-up confusion that is contemporary American Jewish life.

Dylan felt the surreal quality of the present while yearning deeply for the past. He tells of devouring Civil War newspapers in the New York Public Library when he was living on borrowed sofas in Greenwich Village. His most recent 21st-century songs mash up phrases from 19th-century poets and prewar blues singers into a timeless collage.

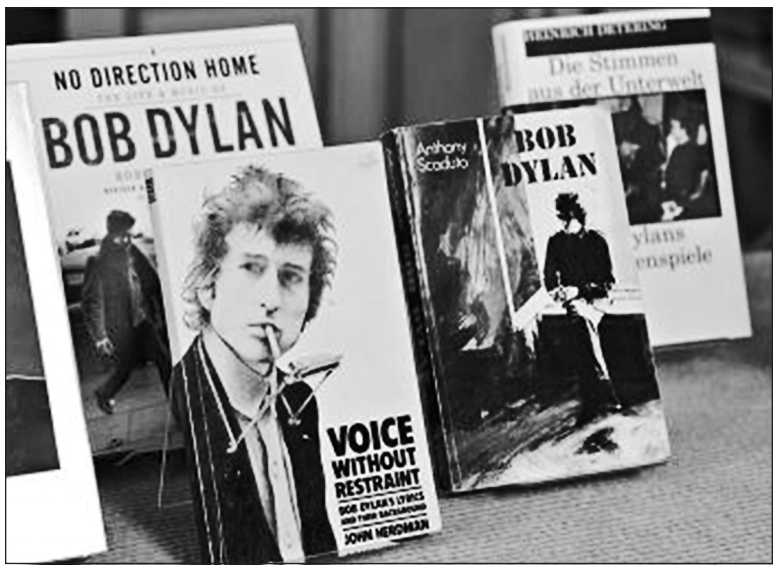
This mix of past and present works with a spirituality is largely absent from the work and life of Roth, a proud atheist.

Each man toyed with the question of making his life in Israel. (Dylan started filling out paperwork to move to a kibbutz; Roth imagined a counterlife where he was Israeli.) But it was Dylan who was photographed at the Western Wall during his son’s bar mitzvah; who became a born-again Christian follower of the evangelist Hal Lindsey; who performed on a Chabad telethon; who showed up on Yom Kippur at Chabad houses across the country; and who was seen occasionally at student performances at his grandchildren’s Jewish day school.

The question of in or out, whether for an individual or a generation, has no easy answer because people are never static. The enfant terrible matures, kicking and screaming, into the elder statesman.

It was 50 years ago that Dylan “went electric” and embraced rock ‘n’ roll; who can count the stages between then and his present status as a gravelly voiced interpreter of Frank Sinatra songs?

Roth began as a naughty young Jewish writer, became a champion of Eastern European authors, and let his early ambition to be a great American novelist play out as the grand chronicler of lives lived amid historical moments, capturing the eras of his lifetime, including the McCarthy era, the ‘60s counterculture, the presidency of Bill Clinton, and, in his 2004 novel of alternate history, “The Plot Against America.” That book is a prescient depiction of the temptations and consequences of America First nativism and anti-Semitism and features not only a conspiracy-mongering President Charles Lindbergh but a bullying developer who is described as a “cheapskate,” “screamer,” “shouter” and “a man without a friend in the world.”



For that reason, a Nobel nod to Roth right now might have been seen as more Swedish meddling in American politics, akin to President Obama’s peace prize. Yet Dylan, too, is a rebuke to the Trump moment – not only for his youthful support for the civil rights movement as a songwriter and performer (he professed to abandoning politics back in 1964, and has, with a handful of exceptions, remained apolitical since), but for showing that singing American and being American is as rooted in the language and songs of the African slaves as it is in the folk songs that immigrants brought from England and Scotland, and for showing that a grandson of Russian Jewish immigrants can nurture himself and his country by grafting onto these deep roots.

In awarding a literature prize to a songwriter for the first time, the Nobel Committee honored Dylan for the boundaries he broke in the genre of popular song. Surrealism, anger, confusion – again and again Dylan found words with old echoes for ideas new to the radio and record player.

And it is for this, for using old words in new ways, that I come down on the side of Dylan over Roth. Roth beautifully, masterfully chronicles the life of American Jews. But in recombining old texts for new times, Dylan hearkens back to the most ancient Jewish way of reading and writing, from the first compilers of the Bible, through the rabbis of the Talmud and the Zohar, to the Yiddish and Hebrew writers of the past two centuries.

In that, Dylan puts me in mind of the Jewish writer who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1966, Shmuel Yosef Agnon. Like Roth, Agnon chronicled the lives of Jews in their times. Like Dylan, Agnon creates something new from old language, using words and phrases and images from the prayer book and midrash to tell his tales. – with more than a touch of the mythical and surreal thrown in for good measure.

Roth, for all his brilliant sentences and psychological awareness, is a writer of Jews.

In making newspaper headlines sound like ancient wisdom, Dylan is a Jewish writer.

LARRY YUDELSON is the associate editor of The Jewish Standard.

Until we meet again ...

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

A little bird told me that there has been a mild level of confusion in pockets of Rhode Island's Jewish community for the past few months. This confusion, from what I understand, stemmed from my imminent-postponed-imminent departure from The Jewish Voice. That departure is finally here, and I thought: what better way to say "*au revoir*" to all the people I've met through this job than in the newspaper?

I use "*au revoir*" intentionally; I'm moving to France on a work-holiday visa, which allows me to work in most jobs for up to a year. I am moving for goals that have shifted several times over the years, but surely among them is that I want to speak French better. This has been a goal of mine since before I could drive (this is documented; I found a journal entry from when I was 15 that included something to the effect of "when I go to live in France in my twenties").

While obtaining my visa in late August left me deeply relieved after eight months of frustration with the notoriously impenetrable French bureaucracy, these last few weeks have also seen me in a Janus-like state: looking forward to the future, but also reflecting on the year I've spent living in Massachusetts.

As a community journalist, I have written about community goings-on. As there are a zillion things that go into making a community, I got to learn about a zillion topics and meet a zillion kinds of people. I had virtually no "*niche*," which I liked because the next assignment was always a surprise.

My first story was about a cook-off, and the last two are about two talented and ambitious young athletes and pickleball – quite possibly the sport that ranks number one for bringing a smile to people's faces when they hear its name.

In between these stories, I learned about neurology from a musician, how to use tape to make art at a Jewish-Islamic event for children, and about an Israeli minister's wacky proposal to deport feral cats from Israel. I held a sword and fenced (it was against a dummy, but still!) and did a photo shoot with a giant inflatable sea dragon. I even met one of my childhood heroes, Jane Goodall.

The point is, I've done a lot, and I tried to share what I learned and experienced with readers. One of my goals in writing is to be accessible and engaging, so I hope that in reading my work, you learned something too – perhaps something you might not have otherwise learned.

I'm off to learn more in a different way – through the eyes of a working traveler, as opposed to a journalist.

It's been very cool getting to know people in the Rhode Island/Massachusetts community, and a special shout-out to the team at The Jewish Voice. I will be lucky if I ever work with a team as good and as much fun as Fran Ostendorf, Leah Camara, and, up until recently, Tricia Stearly – not to mention their tolerance for my comfort-seeking penchant for moccasins and loungey sweaters in the office. Much appreciated, ladies!

Shalom/à bientôt/'til next time!

Ariel

FROM PAGE 6 | # FEELINGS

and give in to our impulse to strike out at others, or to shut down within, we can experience a range of emotions that drag us even further down. We might indulge in self-pity and feel sorry for ourselves and our miserable plight. We might anguish in self-loathing for the ugly way we have behaved. We might despair and believe that we have cut ourselves off from forgiveness, and give up on being good. The whole range of responses is suggested by the ambiguity of three words: *"gadol avoni minso."*

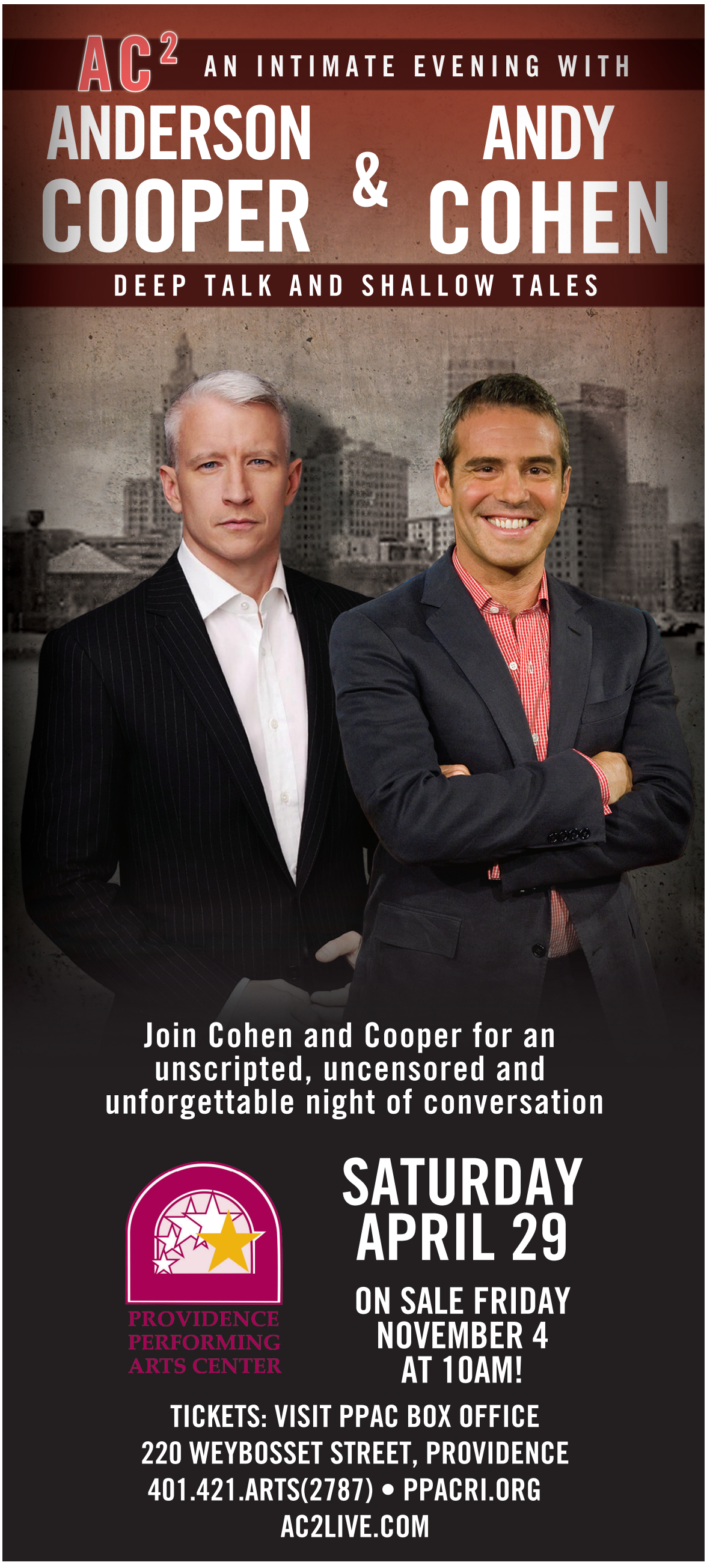
Or, we can accept a different response. We can say – as God suggested to Cain before the murder – that we can be the master of our feelings, they need not master us. We can take the warning that negative thoughts of self-pity, self-accusation and despair only drive us deeper down the hole. We can, instead, do what is right, and find uplift.

The story of Cain and Abel is part of the Hebrew Bible's introduction to the whole topic of sin and punishment. It teaches us that the real reward of doing good is the affirmation of all that is meaningful in life. Doing good is mastery of the self and it is the fulfillment of what ultimately gives pleasure and success in life.

The story teaches that the real punishment for sin is not thunderbolts from heaven – it is the loss of self. When we do what is wrong, we punish ourselves with self-recrimination, self-loathing, self-pity and fear.

We've had our warning. We can be mastered, or we can be the masters of our lives.

RABBI JEFFREY GOLDWASSER is the spiritual leader of Temple Sinai in Cranston. He is the author of the blog "Reb Jeff," from which this d'var Torah is adapted.



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.

Friday | October 28

The Early Bird Gets the Worm. 6:15-6:40 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Through 12/16. No class: 11/25, 12/2. Explore ethical and spiritual themes in the upcoming week's Torah reading using "Imrei Baruch" by noted RIETS Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Baruch Simon. Attend shacharit at 6:45 a.m. and go into Shabbat prepared. Held in the Beit Midrash (chapel) with Rabbi Barry Dolinger. Information, contact office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

New Member Shabbat. 6-8 p.m. Congregation Beth David, 102 Kingstown Road, Narragansett. Shabbat service and dinner to welcome new members. Seating is limited. Reservations are required. $30 for members; $35 nonmembers; children under 13 free. Information, contact Frank Prosnitz at frank.prosnitz@gmail.com or 401-935-9890. To register, send check to Congregation Beth David, P.O. Box 3299, Narragansett, RI 02882.

Saturday | October 29

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 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 | October 30

Sunday Mornings OROT. 8:45-9:45 a.m. following shacharit at 8 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Study Rav Kook's revolutionary seminal work, a collection of challenging and moving essays describing the religious significance of Zionism. Through 12/18. No class: 11/27, 12/4. Information, contact 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. No class: 11/27, 12/04. Information, contact office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Women's Association of JSA Annual Meeting. 2-4 p.m. Tamarisk, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. Annual meeting and raffle as well as games (mah jongg, canasta, bridge) following the business meeting. Light refreshments. Information, contact Bernice Weiner at niecie663@gmail.com or 401-663-6747.

Jewish Alliance 2017 Annual Campaign Event Featuring Jesse Itzler. 7 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Annual Campaign event features Jesse Itzler, the "100-mile-man's" story of philanthropy, entrepreneurism and perseverance. Dessert reception follows program. Dietary laws observed. Free with a donation of any amount to the 2017 Annual Campaign. RSVP by Oct. 19. Receptions for Pacesetter/Lion of Judah/Silver Circle at 5 p.m. and Double Chai Society at 6 p.m. Information or RSVP, contact Michele Gallagher at 401-421-4111, ext. 165, or mgallagher@jewishallianceri.org.

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 | October 31

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 while allowing for delving deeper through discussions during classes. No class: 11/14 & 12/12. Information, contact office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393, or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Tuesday | November 1

Yoga. 6-7 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Led by instructor Jeannine Margolis. Cost: $30 for 3 sessions paid in advance; $12 per session at the door. Beginner and intermediate levels. Open to all. Bring your own mat. Information, contact Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Benjamin Franklin's Influence on Judaism: A Lecture by Shai Afsai. 7:30-9 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. In addition to his lasting contributions to science and government, Benjamin Franklin also succeeded in influencing Jewish thought and practice – a feat he accomplished posthumously through his famous autobiography, which found its way into Eastern European rabbinic circles in the early 19th century. Shai Afsai is a prolific writer whose works have appeared in The Jerusalem Post, Haaretz, The Providence Journal, The Forward and elsewhere. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Carol Gualtieri at cgualtieri@teprov.org.



Film and discussion Nov. 7 at URI Hillel in Kingston.

Tuesday Night Talmud. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Study entire 5th chapter of Berachot that 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 | November 4

The Early Bird Gets the Worm. 6:15-6:40 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Through 12/16. No class: 11/25, 12/2. Explore ethical and spiritual themes in the upcoming week's Torah reading using "Imrei Baruch" by noted RIETS Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Baruch Simon. Attend shacharit at 6:45 a.m. and go into Shabbat prepared. Held in the Beit Midrash (chapel) with Rabbi Barry Dolinger. Information, contact office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Family Shabbat Dinner and Services. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Congregational dinner and Shabbat services. Adults $18, children $8, family max. $50. For more information, contact temple-beth-el.org or 401-331-6070.

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. Combines musical instruments with both traditional and spirited Kabbalat Shabbat melodies. Stay for a delicious Shabbat dinner. All ages with children's activities available throughout the evening. Contributions welcome before or after Shabbat. For more information, contact Paul Stouber at pstouber@teprov.org or 401-331-1616.

Saturday | November 5

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 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 6

Sunday Mornings OROT. 8:45-9:45 a.m. following shacharit at 8 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Study Rav Kook's revolutionary seminal work, a collection of challenging and moving essays describing the religious significance of Zionism. Through 12/18. No class: 11/27, 12/4. Information, contact 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. No class: 11/27, 12/04. Information, contact office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Hadassah Chai Luncheon. 12-3 p.m. Riverfarms Condo Clubhouse, 1 Krystal Pond Drive, West Warwick. Potluck dairy luncheon begins at noon. Dr. Margaret Van Bree, president of Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital, will speak about her visit to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. Members of Hadassah's Chai Society, as well as those who have joined Hadassah in the last two years, will be honored. Event supports Hadassah's "Every Beat Counts" initiative to educate women about the risks, prevention and detection of heart disease. $36. Information, contact Sue Mayes at sue_mayes@cox.net or 401-463-3636.

Rhode Island Wind Ensemble. 2-4 p.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. This annual concert includes the West Bay Havurah's Denise Berson on clarinet. Free concert is open to the public. Information, contact Dottie in the temple office at 401-942-8350.

Annual World Series Cookoff. 4-5:30 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Come as a spectator or enter the contest. Cost: adults $10, children $5. For more information, contact temple-beth-el.org or 401-331-6070.

"Rabin In His Own Words." 7 p.m. Brown RISD Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence. Memorial ceremony and film to honor Yitzhak Rabin. "Rabin In His Own Words" is told entirely in Rabin's own voice. Twenty-one years after his assassination in November 1995, this extraordinary documentary gathers together a wealth of video footage and personal correspondence. The result is a compelling story that illustrates Rabin's life and times from his childhood in Tel Aviv as the son of a labor leader before the founding of the State of Israel, to farm worker, then through his IDF military service and his diplomatic and political career including his two elections to Prime Minister of Israel. This film is a rare look at one of the most significant, passionate, divisive and controversial men to walk the stage of world history. Hebrew with subtitles. Running time is 104 minutes. This event is free. Pre-registration is encouraged. Information, contact Tslil Reichman, Israeli Shlichah (Emissary) at 401-421-4111, ext. 121, or treichman@jewishallianceri.org.

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 | November 7

Women's Alliance Fall Rosh Hodesh Program. "Many Waters: Transformative Ritual and Why it Matters," featuring Rabbi Elyse Winick, Jewish chaplain at Brandeis University. 12-1:15 p.m. Dwares JCC. Rosh Hodesh, the marking of the new moon, was once celebrated by both men and women. In later years, Rosh Hodesh became primarily a women's holiday – a day for women to be together to enjoy meaningful introspection, dialogue and study. Cost: $10 (includes lunch). Dietary laws observed. Information and RSVP, contact Danielle Germanowski at 401-421-4111, ext. 109, or dgermanowski@jewishallianceri.org. RSVP by Oct. 31.

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 while allowing for delving deeper through discussions during classes. No class: 11/14 & 12/12. Information, contact office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393, or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

"Oro Macht Frei" Film and Discussion. 6:30 p.m. reception; 7 p.m. film and discussion. Swan Hall Auditorium, URI, 60 Upper College Road, Kingston. 70-minute documentary tells the story of the Roman Jewish experience during the Nazi occupation of Rome (Sept. 1943 – June 1944) and the Nazis' gold extortion of the community. In addition to sharing testimony of members of the Roman Jewish community, the film looks at the controversial stance of the Vatican at that time. The discussion will be led by writer and producer, Catherine Campbell, and by Holocaust scholar and retired URI History Prof. Robert Weisbord. Sponsored by URI

FROM PAGE 10 | # CALENDAR

Hillel, the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center, the URI College of Arts and Sciences, the Harrington School of Communication and Media at URI, the URI Film/Media Program, the URI History Department, the URI Italian Program and the URI Catholic Center. Information, contact Amy Olson amyolson@uri.edu.

Tuesday | November 8

Yoga. 6-7 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Led by instructor Jeannine Margolis. Cost: $30 for 3 sessions paid in advance; $12 per session at the door. Beginner and intermediate levels. Open to all. Bring your own mat. Information, contact Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Tuesday Night Talmud. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Study entire 5th chapter of Berachot that 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.

Wednesday | November 9

Bryant University Jewish Community Presentation. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bryant University, 1150 Douglas Pike, Smithfield. University President Ron Machtley, entrepreneurship lecturer Mark Feinstein and Hillel director Rabbi Steve Jablow will lead a forum on a new university initiative to enhance the campus Jewish experience. R.I. Jewish community leaders as well as alumni are invited. Information, contact Rabbi Steven Jablow at sjablow@bryant.edu or 401-232-6553.

Thursday | November 10

Medicare Part D Open Enrollment. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island, 100 Niantic Ave., Providence. Medicare Part D Open Enrollment assistance. Bring medication list and Medicare card. A senior health insurance representative will be available. Information, contact Rachel Rollins at 401-621-5374, ext. 108.

Friday | November 11

The Early Bird Gets the Worm. 6:15-6:40 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Through 12/16. No class: 11/25, 12/2. Explore ethical and spiritual themes in the upcoming week's Torah reading using "Imrei Baruch" by noted RIETS Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Baruch Simon. Attend shacharit at 6:45 a.m. and go into Shabbat prepared. Held in the Beit Midrash (chapel) with Rabbi Barry Dolinger. Information, contact office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Saturday | November 12

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 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.

Creative Hands Art Sale. 7-9 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Local and regional artists and craftspeople will display and sell a variety of unique items in many media and materials, including jewelry, glass, wood, textiles, photography, painting, soap, children's books and Judaica. Sale is two days. Admission is free, and food will be available in our cafe. Information, go to info@teprov.org or call 401-331-1616.

Sunday | November 13

Sunday Mornings OROT. 8:45-9:45 a.m. following shacharit at 8 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Study Rav Kook's revolutionary seminal work, a collection of challenging and moving essays describing the religious significance of Zionism. Through 12/18. No class: 11/27, 12/4. Information, contact 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. No class: 11/27, 12/04. Information, contact office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Creative Hands Art Sale. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. See listing under Saturday, November 12. Information, go to info@teprov.org or call 401-331-1616.

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.

Shabbat dinner

As part of the Shabbos project weekend, there will be a family friendly Shabbat dinner Nov. 11 after Carlebach-style services.

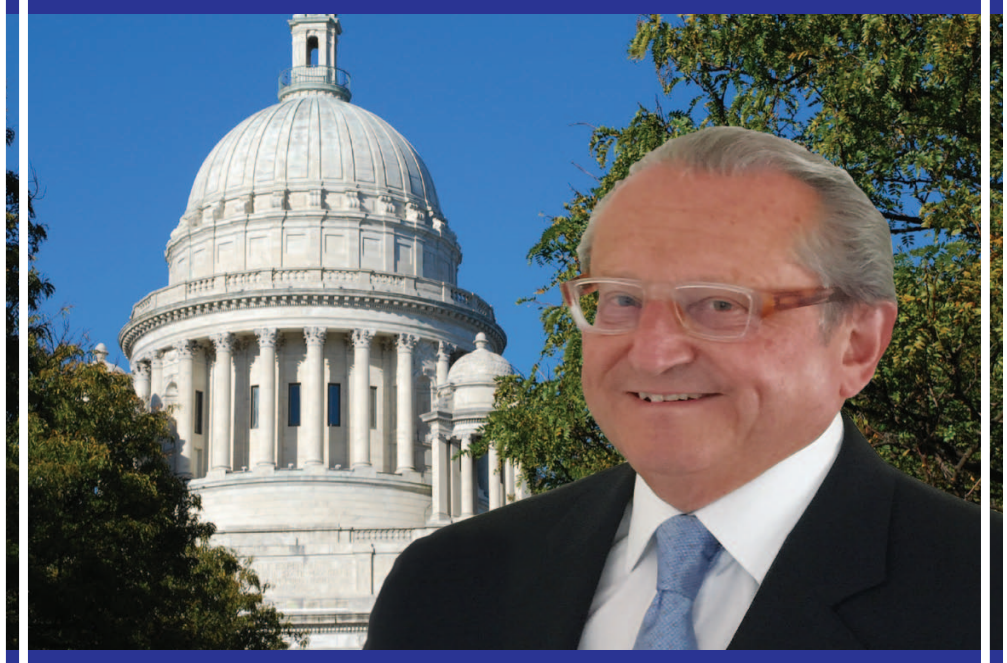
Services are at 5:30 p.m. dinner is at 6:30. Cost is $20 per adult and $15 per child with a $75 family maximum.

This event takes place at Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence.

Call Elissa Felder at 401-241-9631 or Alison Walter at 617-596-9358 to RSVP, or email elissafelder@aol.com.

ELECT Ray MATHIEU
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

RI'S RAY OF HOPE



Your Independent Candidate for RI State Representative in House District 1

- Rhode Island native. Lived in RI virtually my entire life. Worked in Providence for almost 40 years.
- Solid family man. Married 33 years to Lucia Mathieu (Pimentel). Raised 2 sons.

Why you should **vote** for me on **November 8**

As a State Representative, I shall focus on the issues which the majority of my constituents find most important to RI. Based upon my personal door to door campaigning so far, those issues are: Economic Development & Job Creation, Improving RI's Public School Education and Ethics Reform.

I'll bring to the General Assembly a unique understanding of how to fix the RI Economy based upon my over 40 years of sophisticated financial experience and expertise as: VP & Controller of Fleet Bank, Senior VP & Controller of Old Stone Bank, CFO (25 years) of Providence Equity Partners with a **strong reputation for straightforwardness and high ethical standards.**

I shall be an **Independent** first time elected official with none of the political party cronyism and baggage of the incumbents and not be encumbered by the influence of narrowly focused special interest groups.

Since retiring in January 2012, I have focused on:

A) Economic development and job creation in RI by fostering and nurturing start up businesses by:

I) Investing my own money through Cherrystone Angel Investors and Ocean State Angel Investors.
II) Sitting on the Boards and Investment Committees of The Slater Technology Fund (www.slaterfund.com) and The Business Development Company of RI (www.bdcri.com)
III) Being an Advisor and Judge at the Annual RI Business Plan Competition (www.ri-bizplan.com)

B) Improving RI's education system by:

I) Participating in Lt. Gov. Dan McKee's new Education Moonshot initiative.
II) Being a Board Member & Treasurer of OSHEAN, Inc.(www.oshean.org)
III) Being a Trustee of the URI Foundation (www.urifoundation.org)
IV) Being a Member of the URI Business Advisory Council (http://web.uri.edu/business/advisory-council/)

VOTE NOVEMBER 8

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Fragrant challah is perfect for autumn

BY TAMI GANELES-WEISER

The Nosher via JTA – No, this isn't a Christmas cookie. The flavors are straight out of the Germanic regions – Alsace-Lorraine, Germany and Austria, where Jews lived for many centuries and many were a vital part of the spice business. The bread bursts with ginger from gingersnap cookies and fresh ginger. It's sweet, richly spiced and supported with the warm undertones of apples. Enrobed in the enriched challah dough, it makes a fragrant loaf that is great for any autumn or winter celebration.

When you spread the filling over the three sections of dough, make sure to leave a clean edge of at least 1 1/2 inches to prevent overflow and allow for good bread-to-bread stickage. Don't be afraid to give it a good pinch to seal it. Then roll up into a tube. I slash the tubes about halfway through to the bottom – not more – so you can see all that filling, but not enough for it to fall out and burn. Then they are braided.

You can make this challah into a *shtreimel* shape, the coiled round loaf that is traditional for Ashkenazi Rosh Hashanah and fall holidays. I make a very long single tube shape, increasingly and gradually thicker at one end than the other (by about 1 to 1 1/2 inches). I don't usually slice or slash it, but it's possible to do as long as you don't get carried away and cut it too deep.

To coil: Starting with the thinnest part of the tube, twist and wind it like a snake coiled up onto itself, and tuck the end down into the center to make a spiral that seemingly has no end. You can also start the coil from the inside out, starting with the thickest part for the first small tight coil.



Ginger and Apple Challah

Ingredients

For the dough:

1 (1/4 ounce) packet instant yeast (about 2 1/4 teaspoons)

1/4 cup plus 2 teaspoons granulated sugar, divided

2/3 cup warm water, between 85 and 95 degrees

3 3/4 cups bread flour, plus more for dusting

3 large eggs, divided

3 large egg yolks

1/4 cup canola or any mild flavored oil

2 teaspoons kosher salt

2 teaspoons water

For the filling:

18 to 20 gingersnap cookies

1/3 cup apricot jam or preserves

1-1/4 teaspoons cinnamon

3/4 teaspoon roasted ground cardamom

3-inch piece fresh ginger, peeled and grated finely (about 3 tablespoons)

1/3 teaspoon ground allspice

6 to 10 scrapes fresh nutmeg

6 tablespoons apple butter

Directions

Prepare the dough: In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a dough hook, combine the yeast, 2 teaspoons of the sugar, and 2/3 cup warm water. Mix to combine. Let stand for 2-3 minutes, until the yeast starts to foam.

Add 1 3/4 cups of flour to the yeast mixture and mix to combine.

In a mixing bowl, whisk the remaining sugar, 2 of the whole eggs, the egg yolks, oil and salt together until combined. Add this to the yeast and flour mixture and mix at low speed until thoroughly incorporated, about 1 minute. Add the remaining 1 3/4 cups flour, and once fully incorporated, knead at medium speed for 6-7 minutes. The dough should be smooth, soft, and slightly sticky.

Transfer the dough to a large bowl and cover with plastic wrap and a damp kitchen towel; refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight.

When the dough is chilled, remove it from the refrigerator. Line a 12-by-18-inch rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper or a nonstick silicone pad and set aside. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Make an egg wash by whisking the remaining egg and the water in small bowl and set aside.

To make the filling: Place the gingersnaps in the bowl of a food processor and process for 15 to 20 seconds until finely ground. (You will have about 1 cup of crumbs.) Add the apricot jam, cinnamon, cardamom, ginger, allspice, and nutmeg and process for 10 to 20 seconds, until it has the consistency of a paste. Set aside.

Lightly flour a work surface and a rolling pin. Turn the dough out onto the work surface and divide it into 3 equal pieces (about 330 grams each). Cover 2 of the pieces in plastic wrap and set aside. On the work surface, roll the remaining piece of dough into a rough 10-inch square. It should be about 1/8-inch in thickness. Spray a silicone spatula with nonstick vegetable oil spray and use it to spread about 1/3 cup of the filling across the dough, and then spread 2 tablespoons of apple butter on top, leaving a 1/2-inch border uncovered on the side farthest from you. Use a pastry brush to brush a small amount of the egg wash over the uncovered edge.

Use a pastry scraper or spatula to help lift the filled edge of the dough and roll it into a tube, jelly roll-style, as tightly as you can, toward the exposed edge. Pinch the seam closed with your fingertips. Gently roll the tube back and forth over the work surface until it spreads lengthwise to about 12 inches long.

Cover the first tube with plastic wrap and set aside while you repeat with the remaining dough and filling, working with one piece of dough at a time.

Slash the tubes: Line up the 3 rolled, filled tubes on the prepared baking sheet. With a very sharp, long knife, make a lengthwise slash through each tube, cutting halfway down the depth of the tube, but making sure not to cut all the way through to the bottom.

Roughly measure the center point of the tubes (about 6 inches in from the ends). Working outward from that point, braid the tubes together, crossing one of the outer tubes gently over the middle one. Then cross the other outer tube up and over the new middle one. Repeat, working your way down to the end. Half of the tube should be braided. Then turn the parchment paper around and braid the other side, from the center point to the end, so that the entire loaf is braided.

Spray a piece of plastic wrap with nonstick vegetable oil spray and cover the bread with it, sprayed-side down. Allow the bread to rise for 40 minutes.

Uncover and brush liberally and completely with the egg wash.

Bake for 50 to 60 minutes, until crusty and warm brown, and an instant-read thermometer inserted into the bottom of the loaf reads about 200 F. If you tap it gently on the bottom, it should sound hollow.

Cool in the pan for 10 minutes. Then transfer to a rack to cool completely before serving.

TAMI GANELES-WEISER is a writer and editor, recipe developer, culinary educator and caterer. She is a regular columnist for JoyofKosher.com, and contributes to Moment magazine and TheHomeMonthly.comRecipe Box. More of her writing and recipes are on her website,TheWeiserKitchen.com. The Nosher food blog offers an array of new and classic Jewish recipes and food news, from Europe to Yemen, from challah to shakshuka and beyond. Check it at www.TheNosher.com.

Should you decide to make this delectible challah we would love to know about it. Please take a photo of yours and email it to: **editor@jewishallianceri.org.** We love hearing from our readers.

Editor's Note:

Catering to Tradition
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JV



Judges from the 2015 event consult on Jewish family favorites.

Annual Temple Beth-El 'World Series' features Thanksgiving favorites

If you are looking for new or time-tested traditional Thanksgiving recipes, you can sample more than 25 innovative creations from Temple Beth-El members in its "World Series of Thanksgiving Favorites" on Nov. 6 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. A panel of judges will award the title of "Best Thanksgiving Recipe" and attendees will choose the winner of the "People's Choice Award."

Now in its sixth year, this annual fundraiser benefits The Rabbi Leslie Yale Gutterman Religious School Scholarship Fund. Previous cook-off events included the World Series of Brisket, Kugels, Desserts, Noshes and Jewish Family Favorites. Each event attracted 200 attendees, and they have raised a total of more than $30,000 to assist member families with school tuition.

This year's judges are Gail Solomon, whose family owned Lloyd's Deli on Hope Street; Russell Morin, owner of Russell Morin Fine Catering; and Chef Neath Pal, who now teaches at Johnson and Wales University and who owned Neath's, known for its French/Asian fusion cuisine.

Admission for the event is $10 for adults, $5 for children over 5 and free for children under 5, with a maximum of $30 per family. Temple Beth-El is at 70 Orchard Ave., Providence.

Raffle tickets selling for $10 each or three for $25 offer the chance to win prizes, including gift certificates and gift baskets. For more information, contact Ruby Shalansky at 401-331-6070 or rshalansky@temple-beth-el.org or www.temple-beth-el.org.

Healthy appetizer adds flavor to your table

BY DAWN LERMAN

(The Nosher via JTA) – If you are looking for a light, healthy appetizer to brighten your table, this sweet potato hummus is bursting with flavor. Because of its high protein and fiber content, it will help control your appetite and mood. My 450-pound ad man dad named it the caviar of hummus – exclaiming that it was almost illegal for something so nutritious to be this delicious.

"All the gusto without all the Jewish guilt," my dad complimented, paraphrasing his award-winning slogan for Schlitz beer and my culinary skills when I was 11.

While my dad spent his days cooking up great marketing campaigns, I spent my time after school reading recipes and exploring the many ethnic food markets in Manhattan – finding tasty ways to please my dad's palate while helping him conquer his struggle with obesity.

This easy-to-prepare delicacy has survived my dad's many fad diets and was a staple in his 200-pound weight loss.

Sweet Potato Hummus

Yield: 6 servings

Ingredients

1 large sweet potato (about 9 ounces)

1 (15-ounce) can chickpeas, drained and rinsed

5 tablespoons olive oil (plus additional, as needed, for thinning)

2 tablespoons tahini

2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

2 garlic cloves, peeled

1 teaspoon ground coriander

1 teaspoon ground cumin

1/4 teaspoon Kosher salt

Pinch of nutmeg

Directions

Place your oven rack in the center and preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Wrap the sweet potato to in foil and bake in a shallow baking pan until it can be easily pierced with a knife, about 45 minutes. Transfer to a cooling rack and cool completely.

Peel the skin off the sweet potato and transfer to a food processor fitted with a blade. Add the chickpeas, olive oil, tahini, lemon juice, garlic, coriander, cumin, salt, and nutmeg, and process until smooth. If the hummus is too thick, add a little extra olive oil or water and process until the desired consistency is reached.

RECIPE REPRINTED with permission from "My Fat Dad, A Memoir, of Food, Love and Family with Recipes," by Dawn Lerman. The Nosher food blog offers an array of new and classic Jewish recipes and food news. Check it out at www.TheNosher.com.



AN EXCERPT FROM LIVING on the EDGE
2016 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

Through initiatives and outreach, the ***Living on the Edge*** community platform aims to support long-term stability for greater Rhode Island's Jewish community.

HOW WE DO IT:

- **Providing a safety net**
- **Promoting self-sufficiency**
- **Increasing access to Jewish life**

Living on the Edge services have impacted more than 3,000 lives in the following cities and towns across greater Rhode Island:



Attleboro, MA
Barrington
Bristol
Central Falls
Coventry
Cranston
Cumberland
East Greenwich
East Providence
Johnston
Lincoln
Middletown
Narragansett
Newport
North Kingstown
North Providence
Pawtucket
Portsmouth
Providence
South Kingstown
Warren
Warwick
West Greenwich
West Warwick
Westerly
Woonsocket

The figures outlined above are as of June 30, 2016 | 24 Sivan 5776

The Jewish Alliance and our partner agencies have a history of providing assistance to those who have struggled financially within our community. The ***Living on the Edge*** initiative is more important than ever as we work together to address the financial distress currently affecting one in two Jewish households in greater Rhode Island.

With a bold new initiative in place — support from generous donors, and partnerships with local agencies — we are able to provide vital, often life changing support to vulnerable individuals and families.

To view the full report, and to learn more about giving or receiving help, visit jewishallianceri.org/LOE

Jewish Alliance
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Talking with loved ones about the future



LIVING WELL

ERIN MINIOR

I remember it like it was yesterday, watching my 74-year-old father lying in a hospital bed, totally incapacitated as the result of a stroke. Breathing was the only thing he was able to manage independently. It was hard to believe that he was swimming laps at the local YMCA's pool just a day before his stroke. Thoughts of his future kept racing through my mind.

Fortunately, I'd had many conversations with my father about what he would want if faced with this situation. He had made these conversations easy as he had already given thought to his options for end-of-life care/life-prolonging procedures, and was comfortable with his decisions.

Under the circumstances, knowing his desires was probably one of the best gifts he ever gave me. It lifted the heavy weight of decision-making from my heart and made the path that I was about to choose for him quite clear.

Planning for the future and having these conversations with your aging parents can be difficult. No one likes to think about, never mind discuss, these "heavy" issues. But talking about these topics when they seem to be in the distant future can take the edge off the conversation.

Having these conversations with your parents or other seniors in your life while they are in good health can help alleviate some pain when a crisis arises.

jfs Jewish Family Service of Rhode Island

Here are things to consider before starting the conversation:

• Think about the right time to have the talk. Make sure it is when no one is distracted or preoccupied and everyone is in a comfortable space.

• Know what topics you want to discuss, such as health, finances, security, relationships, quality of life – and do not attempt to cover them all at one time. You do not need all the answers in one day.

• Open the conversation with sensitivity and explain in a non-threatening manner why you are initiating the discussion at this time.

For example, "A coworker's father recently passed away and he did not have a will. My friend is trying to sort through his affairs, which prompted me to think about getting my own will. Do you have a will?" Or, "A co-worker became ill at work and we had no emergency contact information on record. Do you have emergency contact information in an accessible location?" This will lay the groundwork for the conversation and future discussions.

• You can ask them to describe what they hope their life will look like as they age. Ask questions to clarify things you do not understand. Remain neutral even if you do not agree with them, and explain the impact their vision may have on you and your family.

Remember, you are the adult son, daughter, or caregiver, not parent: You can share your opinion, but you must respect their wishes as long as their safety and well-being are protected.

These conversations can be uncomfortable and stressful to both your aging loved ones and you. If you would like to talk further about how best to approach this subject, contact Jewish Family Service at 401-331-1244.

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ERIN GISHERMAN MINIOR (erin@jfsri.org) is the CEO of Jewish Family Services of Rhode Island.

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Coming of age – at any age


PATRICIA RASKIN

I recently met with Jenna Pepperman, my former college intern and a communications major from the University of Rhode Island. As I was telling her about the theme for this column, she immediately said, "I can speak to being a Bat Mitzvah." Jenna, now 21, talked about how she feels connected to Judaism in such a deep way since her Bat Mitzvah at the age of 12.

She said, "I did not understand the true meaning of my Bat Mitzvah at the time although I knew it was important. It wasn't until I went to Israel two summers ago that I felt the true impact and deep connection to Judaism. Visiting the Western Wall, learning about the Jewish history and meeting the Israeli soldiers reinforced how important it is to keep the tradition going."

She added, "I have a twin sister, and she feels the same way I do. Having that identity will stay with me forever."

I asked Jenna what she loved about being Jewish and Judaism and she said, "I love the people and of course the food. But I also love the history and how we made it through the Holocaust."

I feel this aptly expresses the sentiments of connection to the Torah, our history, Jewish identity and our people as a whole.

The article "Significance of the Bar & Bat Mitzvah," found on the website of Chabad of Port Washington (chbadpw.org) states, "When a child reaches to the age of Bat & Bar Mitzvah, she/he assumes a greater maturity in her/his connection to Torah and Mitzvot, to her/his own Jewish identity, to the Jewish people as a whole, and to God. … Our sages teach that at the age of 13 young men and women are endowed with a greater capacity for both seeking to do good and seeking selfish pursuits.

This age marks the young adult's arrival at the crossroads of moral and spiritual decision-making that is engaged in by mature adults."

As I look at my generation and my age, I think of how this impacts me as an early baby boomer. Aron Moss summarizes it well. In "Entering Adulthood – the Bar and Bat Mitzvah," at Chabad.org, he writes, "With maturity comes the ability to sense subtlety and nuance. Our minds expand to be able to appreciate that even though something seems painful, there is a deeper good. And the things that feel good are not always good for us. … From now on we can also see things through the eyes of our deeper self – our soul. Then the choice is ours – to continue to live superficially or to develop our spiritual awareness."

All of this speaks to me because my Judaism has deepened over the years. My spiritual awareness and desire to live life from a deeper place, with Jewish tenants and principles, have enlightened and lifted me up through both the tough and the joyous times.

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.



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Jewish Alliance
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Children of fallen Israeli soldiers, and an American, celebrate bar mitzvahs

BY SAM SOKOL
JNS.ORG

JERUSALEM – Dozens of orphans of fallen Israeli soldiers, and the son of an American serviceman who died in Afghanistan, celebrated their bar and bat mitzvahs in Jerusalem Oct. 13 in a mass ceremony conducted by the IDF Widows and Orphans Organization.

The children, between ages 12 and 13, met with the Israeli Army's Chief Rabbi in the morning, ahead of the event, to receive pairs of tefillin, leather boxes containing scriptural passages that Jewish men wear on their arms and heads during prayer when they reach adulthood.



PHOTO | SAM SOKOL

An IDF choir member singing at the event.



PHOTO | SAM SOKOL

The participants in the IDF Widows and Orphans Organization's mass bar and bat mitzvah ceremony with Israeli leaders.

The organization, which provides support for army widows and orphans, makes an "extra effort to be there at important junctions in the lives of children who lost parents, and one of these is the bar mitzvah year," said Shlomi Nahumson, director of the group's youth department, at a celebratory concert for the young orphans.

"A child should be able to begin this journey with the hand of their father on their shoulder and with their presence when they make their choices on becoming adults," Nahumson said. "There's no way we can bring their fathers back to them. But we can put our hands on their shoulders, so they know they're not alone, and that we appreciate the sacrifices their parents made."

As multicolored strobe lights illuminated the room during the evening gala, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin addressed the youngsters, accompanied by Chief of the General Staff Gabi Eizenkot, Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman and other senior officials.

"I know that all of you will continue to be a source of hope to make the world a better and more peaceful place," Rivlin said. "We will accompany you always as you continue to grow and make your families and the people of Israel proud."

While the event was billed as a bar/bat mitzvah ceremony, not all of the kids were Jewish. However, among those clapping and laughing as an IDF choir sang classic Israeli pop songs was Asool Naserladen from the Druze village of Daliyat Eal-Karmel.

Asool, now 12, was only 4-years-old when her father Lutfe, an infantryman in the Golani Brigade, was killed in the line of duty.

She recalled his laugh, how he would buy her presents and "when he took me to Luna Park." Since losing him, she feels that "this organization is my home. I feel that everyone loves me and thinks about me," she said.

Among the Israeli children was American A.J. Voelke, 13, from Springfield, Virginia.

Slight and blond, A.J., an avid sportsman, worried constantly about his father when he went overseas and recalled how sad he felt when his father deployed for the fifth time to Afghanistan.

U.S. Army Maj. Paul C. Voelke, 36, was killed June 22, 2012, when he was run over by a military vehicle in an accident on the American base in Afghanistan.

Describing her initial reaction to the news, Voelke's wife, Tami, said, "It was kind of like in the movies when officers come to your house and you see them standing there and you know what it means. They [military officials] asked me to come in and I said, 'No.' And then I finally got to my senses and said, 'Come on in.' They brought in a chaplain and then life changed."

"It was the worst day of my life," A.J. remembered.

Connected with the Israeli widows and orphans organization by an American group with a similar mission, the Voelkes were invited to take part in the bar mitzvah ceremony, an experience that A.J. said was incredibly meaningful.

Staying with an Israeli army widow during their visit has been incredibly special, Traci Voelke explained, saying she felt an "instant connection." Visiting Israel during the High Holy Days has been "very spiritual" and sharing experiences and pictures have "helped us all through this big event for A.J."

"It feels pretty good to be bar mitzvahed in Israel with children who know what I'm going through," A.J. said. "It's been pretty great."

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TEMPLE HABONIM

Mother finds win-win solution to son's anxiety over Bar Mitzvah

BY STACEY STEINHART



(Kveller via JTA) – I didn't grow up in a very religious home. That said, my parents gave me the option to attend Hebrew school and have a Bat mitzvah.

My friends were shocked that I had a choice – and told me not to do it. I opted out. It wasn't until I became an adult that my spirituality kicked in.

My faith was truly tested when my oldest son was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome, a form of high-functioning autism. He has sensory issues along with a high level of anxiety. His meltdowns tore me to pieces. When he cried, I cried. When he raged, I tried to stay as calm as possible … then I cried. I cried for him and his struggles, I cried for the people he hurt or offended, I cried for my family. I cried because on the surface, he is the epitome of a kind, sweet, typical kid and you can't see the volcanic infernos bubbling up inside him.

Friends, family and strangers would constantly tell me there was nothing wrong with him, he's fine. Yeah, he's fine until he's not fine. I still cry.

He is 12 now, about to turn 13 – a pivotal moment in the life of Jewish children as they start to get ready for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah. My son has attended several Bar and Bat Mitzvahs over the past couple of years, and we have discussed them at length. Talking about things with him and front-loading him helps him cope with his anxiety. He has a difficult time with the crowds (party guests) and the loud music of the DJ. Typically, his choice is to wait outside the party area until our family is ready to leave.

On one particular occasion, he was invited to a classmate's party. I was to drop him off and pick him up later. For several reasons, he had a complete meltdown and insisted on leaving. We thanked the hosts and apologized for our abrupt departure. Fortunately, the hostess was more than empathetic, having a child with similar issues.

It was while we were driving home together that we had a most special moment. After he calmed down, I told him that he was going to have to deal with a similar situation when he has his Bar Mitzvah. He promptly told me he wasn't going to have one. I gave him the option of having a small ceremony and luncheon in New York with just the immediate family (our family is all on the East Coast, while we live in California) or here at our synagogue. He was still reluctant, although he did like the idea of just his grandparents and immediate family there: His fear of getting up in front of all those people would send him into a downward spiral.

I thought for a moment and realized that we have been on this journey together as a team since he was just a baby. I am his mother, his advocate and his coach. We are teammates. We should do this together. So I proposed to him that I would do this with him. He loved the idea.

Of course, I don't want to take away from his special day. It is still about him. But the idea of having someone there with him puts his mind at ease – somewhat anyway.

As for me, I have always felt that I missed out on something big by not having a Bat Mitzvah as a girl – I never became a part of the world that my friends all knew, a special club. I wish I had learned Hebrew as a child. I would have loved to have understood the whats and the whys of the traditions in synagogue. I'm glad I'm getting my chance now.

Our B'nai Mitzvah is scheduled for March. We have set the wheels in motion. I have been taking Hebrew lessons. We are both preparing to learn our Torah portions, and we practice together. I have to say he is definitely doing a better job than I am.

We have embarked on this journey together. It has brought us closer, and even though I am doing this for him, I can't help but feel the blessings that he has given me. He has taught me so much; he has no idea.

STACEY STEINHART has a degree in design and a degree in journalism.

KVELLER (Kveller.com) is a thriving community of women and parents who convene online to share, celebrate and commiserate about their experiences of raising kids through a Jewish lens.

French, Dutch towns commemorate Alfred Dreyfus

JTA – A French municipality has honored the persecuted Jewish soldier Alfred Dreyfus with a statue and a Dutch town honored the Holocaust survivor and writer Jules Schelvis with a street sign.

Dreyfus, a French army captain who was wrongfully convicted of spying for Germany in 1894, was commemorated earlier this month in his native city of Mulhouse in eastern France. On Oct. 9, the day Dreyfus was born in 1859, one of his grandsons unveiled a statue of him at a local park during a ceremony attended by the mayor, France 3 reported.

Paris, the city where his show trial was held and where he was eventually exonerated in 1906, has no street named after Dreyfus, who was exiled to a French colony in South America for the false charges.

On Oct. 19, the municipality of Amstelveen, south of Amsterdam, where several thousand Jews live, inaugurated a street sign bearing the name of Schelvis, who survived seven Nazi concentration and death camps. He died earlier this year in Amstelveen.

The sign will be installed in 2018 in a neighborhood that is still being constructed, according to the municipality's official blog.

The University of Amsterdam gave Schelvis an honorary doctorate in 2008 for his research of the Sobibor death camp in Poland, which he survived. His 1993 book "Extermination Camp Sobibor" is considered one of the most detailed documents ever written on the death site, which fewer than 50 people are believed to have escaped and which the Nazis largely obliterated to cover up their atrocities.

An amateur historian who has researched the near annihilation of Dutch Jewry during the Holocaust warned that lacking documentation about the victims could lead to spelling errors and other mistakes in commemorative projects.

Jim Terlingen said the Netherlands, which lost approximately 75 percent of its Jews during the Holocaust – the highest percentage in Nazi-occupied Western Europe – has only kept partial lists of Holocaust victims.

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Family finds nontraditional group B'nai Mitzvah especially meaningful

BY JULIE WEINER

(Kveller via JTA) – At my daughter's recent Bat Mitzvah, hundreds of people spread out to form a large circle and, together, carefully hold a completely unrolled Torah scroll.

With the scroll spread out so that its entire contents were visible, my daughter found the spot on the parchment where the Torah portion corresponding to her Hebrew birthday was located. So did eight other 12- and 13-year-olds.

Standing with their parents at their Torah portion (helpfully indicated in advance with Post-It notes) and going in order from Genesis to Deuteronomy, each child then recited one line from his or her portion.

It's no surprise that my own daughter's Bat Mitzvah would be more meaningful to me than anyone else's, and the novelty of this new ritual added to the specialness. But it was also just a powerful moment – one that while nontraditional also felt respectful and authentic.

Having each child physically stand by his or her Torah portion reinforced the idea that each child has a place in the Jewish story. It empowered all the assembled families and friends to touch the fragile yet sturdy Torah and feel a sense of ownership of it.

Perhaps most important, however, was that this was a group ceremony, not an individual show. And, in contrast to the lavish, wedding-like parties that follow many contemporary American Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremonies, this was followed by a simple shared party: a tasteful (and tasty) brunch.

Called a *brit atid* – Hebrew for covenant of/with the future – the ceremony was the culmination of my daughter's participation in the Jewish Journey Project (JJP), an alternative Jewish education program that describes itself as "experiential Jewish education for the modern New York City kid."

Launched in 2012 out of the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan, JJP enables kids to choose their own classes, according to their interests and scheduling needs. Students can enroll through the JCC, or through one of the five partnering synagogues. The synagogue kids have a traditional Bar/Bat Mitzvah at their congregation, while the JCC ones can either plan a private Bar/Bat Mitzvah or participate in the *brit atid* program.

The *brit atid* ceremony was preceded by a year of monthly parents-and-kids Torah study sessions, along with monthly one-on-one sessions with our teacher, Jeremy Tabick, a doctoral student at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Each child then came up with a creative project to interpret/present his or her portion.



At the brit atid.

My daughter, who loves filming intricate stop-motion animation sequences starring Playmobil figures and Barbie dolls, created a short and somewhat irreverent film about her Torah portion, followed by a speech addressing the portion's many problematic aspects. (Not hard, given that the text starts out with God exhorting the Israelites to kill all the Canaanites and show them no mercy!)

Although both my daughter and I worried that the *brit atid* would feel like a dumbed-down Bat Mitzvah – after all, learning to chant *trope* is a demanding process – this approach felt more relevant to us than a long performance in a language most of our friends and family do not understand.

Since we don't regularly attend Shabbat services, learning to chant *trope* is not a skill my daughter is going to use, at least not in the near future, and it's not really what being Jewish is about to us. And, like most kids, she'd probably forget the *trope* within months of the Bat Mitzvah. And learning to chant *trope* just for the sake of proving that she could master it seemed like cramming for a big test only to forget all the material immediately afterward.

Having a group ceremony had its disadvantages: We were allowed to invite only 30 guests; the ceremony was not anywhere near my daughter's birthday; and we didn't get to customize the ceremony or party. However, these were offset by the many advantages, both practical and symbolic.

On the practical end, I'm not much of a party planner, and my husband and I did not want to spend tens of thousands of dollars and countless hours planning a big event. Early on, even before we knew about the *brit atid* option, we'd decided, with my daughter, that we'd rather put money toward a family trip to Israel than toward a Bat Mitzvah party.

More importantly, I am not a big fan of the individualism of many Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations – the professionally produced invitation videos, the myriad speeches praising the child, the "theme" and the photo montage. What's nice about Judaism, and organized religion in general, is that it provides a counterweight to the individualism and narcissism of modern life, and a group Bar/Bat Mitzvah conveys a message to the newly minted Jewish adult and the guests that Judaism is a collective, participatory endeavor and not just a performance.

Shortly before the *brit atid*, we attended the more traditional Bar Mitzvah of a close friend – the first one we've been to in years – and both my daughter and I had a few pangs of wondering if she, too, should have done the chanting Torah-in-a-synagogue-on-Saturday-morning route. On the plus side, the second-guessing got her competitive juices flowing and motivated her to improve her speech. And, in the end, she said she was very happy with how it went – and is excited about our upcoming trip to Israel.

Now, we just have to convince her almost-10-year-old sister to go the *brit atid* route as well. Which, given her social butterfly personality and current obsession with planning the perfect "Warriors" book-themed birthday party, might be a challenge.

JULIE WIENER is the managing editor of MyJewishLearning.com.

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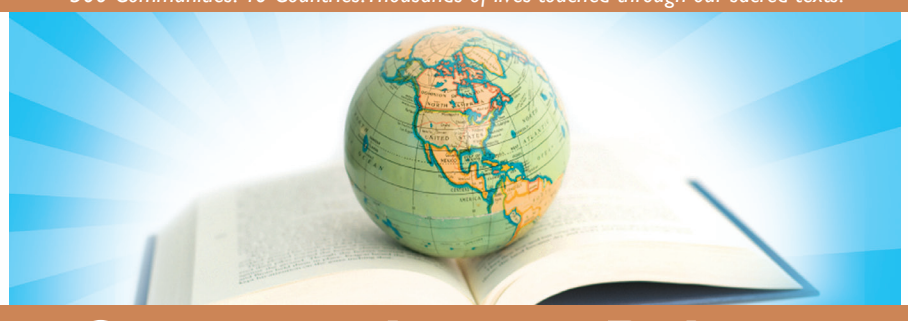
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New director for Camp JORI

Richard Kodner has been hired as the next director of Camp JORI in Wakefield. The announcement was made in a letter to parents Oct. 14.

Kodner comes to JORI from the St. Louis area, where he served as director of Camp Ben Franklin and the executive director of the Jewish Federation of Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky. He was also the board president of the Brith Sholom Keneseth Israel Synagogue in the St. Louis area.

According to the JORI letter, Kodner's selection followed a national search and he told the committee that one of his goals is to get as many children as possible involved in summer camp.

Kodner is married to Gail, a freelance architect. They have twin boys who attend the University of Missouri-Columbia. He will move to Rhode Island in mid-November.

The nobility of preserving our past and creating a friendly future

BY MIKE FINK

NEWPORT – Rabbi Marc Mandel of the Touro Synagogue introduced me to the minyan as "Mike, a reporter." I felt a bit like Clark Kent on an assignment for the Daily Planet.

I was there on a Shabbat with Mel Blake and Bruno Feitler. Blake was there to introduce Feitler, the new Touro scholar, at the community center across the street after the service. Blake, a past president of Providence's Temple Beth-El, dedicated the day and its events in honor of and as an homage to his friend – and a friend of Jewish life in Newport – Bernard Bell, of blessed memory.

My compliments to one and all who took part in these ceremonies. The setting itself is beyond belief in its understated elegance and sheer beauty – no matter how often you visit Touro Synagogue, you can't help being moved by its every detail. It made me think, once again, how noble it is to help preserve, restore and protect such a treasure.

The members of the minyan arrived, one by one, bringing not only the gift of their presence and participation, but also a particular skill or style. A gorgeous *tallit*! A superb voice at the bimah! A friendly handshake or a smile. You feel the intimacy of our global and wandering-wondering faith.

And then, it was my turn to accept the privilege of an *aliyah*. One can recall the subdued melody within the Hebrew words, and the little *yad* helping as you "proof" the actual recitation of the Torah tale of the day.

On this day, it was the voice of Moses appointing Joshua to lead the Israelites to Jericho. (Elie Wiesel claimed that only the black spiritual praises Joshua's battle victories – the story in our Bible is more muted.)

Mandel noted in his sermon that "writing a scroll of Torah" is a major contribution and a mitzvah, and interpreted that concept by pointing to our mysterious ancient scroll, whose origins are as yet unknown. A most poetic metaphor, a mix of majesty and modesty.

I look around the gathering, from the pews across to the gallery, the splendid ark opposite the foyer, and I think, we are here "existentially," creating Judaism itself. That sounds pretentious, but it is meant merely as a reminder of how important each of us is, if only to be, to glimpse these gems of a forlorn fortune, a friendly future.

At the community center, Blake presents Feitler, who is from Brazil. Feitler claims it was in Recife – named for the reefs off the coast of Brazil – that the first Jews of Europe, of Iberia, settled in this hemisphere. Portugal refused to accept the victims of the Inquisition, but, for a single generation, the Dutch had won the land, until Portugal reclaimed it. And then the "Portuguese," as the Jews of Recife were called, left for islands in the Caribbean – Jamaica, Barbados, Curacao – and even Mexico.

The celebrants welcomed Feitler and contributed their commentaries and posed their problems. On the walls of this reception room, there was a display of images of butterflies, both swallowtails and monarchs. Their creative photographer-artist, Dr. Henry Spencer, told me that monarchs are returning and flourishing in New England and also in their migratory second home in Mexico. Almost, to me, a kind of metaphor for Jewish destiny.

He added, "My father took the sacred symbols from the abandoned Howell Street Shul to the Mishkon T'filah temple on Summit Avenue [in Providence], a 'survivor's shul,' and he was himself a survivor."

He says that his father worked with the Polish government in exile in London, with the Soviets, with the Americans, anything at all, however contradictory, to oppose the Nazi onslaught.

All this high drama within a few holy hours on the little historic island that is home to Newport, which seemed to me to be the very center of our personal world. I thank each and all among them for their kind hospitality and for shining a special light upon this new year before us, of hope in the land of hope.

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

I will continue representing our shared values.



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Five steps to tame financial stress


BARBARA KENERSON

Do you sometimes lie awake at night thinking about bills that need to be paid? Does it feel as though you're drowning in debt? If this describes you, you might take solace in the fact that you're not alone. A recent report released by the American Psychological Association (APA) showed that 72 percent of adults feel stressed about money at least some of the time, and 22 percent said the amount of stress they experienced was extreme. The bad news is that stress can be responsible for multiple health problems, including fatigue, headaches and depression. And, over time, stress can contribute to more significant health issues, including high blood pressure and heart disease, according to the Mayo Clinic. The good news is that there are some simple steps you can take to reduce or eliminate some of the financial stress in your life.

Stop and assess

The first step in reducing financial stress is to look at your situation objectively, creating a snapshot of your current financial condition. Sit down and list all of your financial obligations. Start with the items that are causing you the most stress. For debts, include the principal due, the applicable interest rate and the minimum payment amount. If you're not already doing so, review your bank account and credit-card statements to track where your money is going. The goal here is not to solve the problem; it's to determine and document the scope of the problem. You might find that this step alone significantly helps alleviate your stress level (think of it as facing your fears).

Talk to your spouse

If you're married, talk to your spouse. It's important to communicate with your spouse for several reasons. First, you and your spouse need to be on the same financial page; any steps you take to improve your situation are going to be most effective if pursued jointly. Second, not being on the same page as your spouse is only going to lead to additional stress. In fact, the APA report showed that 31 percent of spouses and partners say that money is a major source of conflict or tension in their relationship. Additionally, your spouse or partner can be a valuable source of emotional support, and this emotional support alone can lower stress levels, according to that same report. If you're not married, family or friends might fill this role.

Take control

First, go back and take a look at where your money is going. Are there changes you can make that will free up funds you can save or apply elsewhere? Even small changes can make a difference. And exerting control over your situation to any degree can help reduce your overall stress level. Start building a cash reserve, or emergency fund, by saving a little bit each paycheck. Think of the emergency fund as a safety net; just knowing it's there will help reduce your ongoing level of stress. Work up to a full spending plan (yes, that's another way of saying a budget) where you prioritize your expenses, set spending goals and then stick to them going forward.

Think longer term

Look for ways to reduce debt long term. You might pay more toward balances that have the highest interest rates. Or you might consider refinancing or consolidation options as well. Beyond that, though, you really want to start thinking about your long-term financial goals, identifying and prioritizing your goals, calculating how much you might need to fund those goals, and implementing a plan that accounts for those goals. Having a plan in place can help you with your stress levels, both now and in the future.

Get help

Always remember that you don't need to handle this alone. If the emotional support of a spouse, friends, or family isn't enough, or the level of stress that you're feeling is just too much, know that there is help available. Consider talking to your primary-care physician, a mental health professional or an employee assistance resource, for example. A financial professional can also be a valuable resource in helping you work through some of the steps discussed here, and can help direct you to other sources of assistance, like credit or debit counseling services, depending on your needs. The most important thing to keep in mind is that you have the ability to control the amount of financial stress in your life.

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

Jewish Alliance partner JDC aids in Haiti

BY STEPHANIE HAGUE

Haiti, the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere and one of the world's most impoverished countries, experienced its biggest humanitarian disaster since the 2010 earthquake when Hurricane Matthew hit the island on Oct. 4.

2017 ALLIANCE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

With the death toll estimated at 1,000, and predicted to increase significantly, health officials are concerned about stopping the spread of cholera, starvation and dehydration.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), a partner of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, supported by annual campaign dollars, has mobilized in response to the hurricane, specifically in Haiti. The JDC has a long-standing partnership with Heart to Heart International, which has three medical teams in the southern province of Haiti. The JDC will continue to support Heart to Heart with hygiene kits, water purification tablets, medical resources, and other needs.

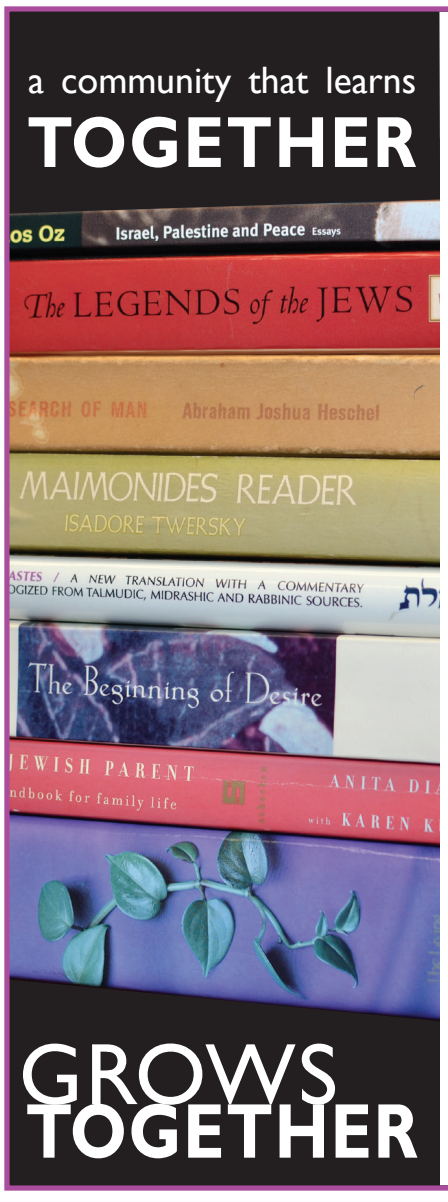
Dr. Aryeh Pelcovits, of Providence, an internal medicine physician, traveled to Haiti in April 2015 to volunteer at a hospital in Port-au-Prince, the capital city. "What struck me most was the lack of infrastructure in the hospital," Pelcovits said. "The emergency room is literally a room, maybe 20 by 20 feet or so, open air, with four or five beds along each wall. … It felt like controlled chaos."

About the current devastation in Haiti, Pelcovits said, "Haitians have no safety net. They were still recovering from the 2010 earthquake so I can only imagine how devastating this most recent disaster has been."

The JDC is the world's leading Jewish humanitarian assistance organization. Since 1914, the JDC has set an example that all Jews are responsible for one another and for improving the well-being of vulnerable people around the world. A percentage of contributions to the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island goes directly to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to help support its life-saving work worldwide.

For information about the 2017 Annual Campaign, the Jewish Alliance of Greater R.I. and its partners, or to contribute, contact Trine Lustig at tlustig@jewishallianceri.org, 401-421-4111, ext. 165, or go to jewishallianceri.org.

STEPHANIE HAGUE is the philanthropy officer at the Jewish Alliance.



READ Jewish Rhode Island

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Here's a brief selection of what people are reading:
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Alice and Sid Goldstein are reading
Not in God's Name by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks
Capt. Gilor Meshulam recommends
1948: A History of the First Arab-Israeli War by Benny Morris
Jeffrey Savit is reading
In The Garden of Beasts by Erik Larsen

For more recommendations, and to register, please visit
jewishallianceri.org/read

Questions? Contact Larry Katz at 401.421.4111 ext. 179 or lkatz@jewishallianceri.org.

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Cranston Senior Guild schedules holiday lunch

The Cranston Senior Guild will hold its annual holiday luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at noon at Mesa Café & Grill, 100 Rolfe St., Cranston.

The luncheon will include a choice of chicken Marsala or baked fish, rolls, chicken escarole soup, salad, pasta, green beans and carrots. For dessert the choice is tiramisu or fresh fruit cup and coffee or tea. The total cost is $25 (tax and tip are included). There will be Jewish musical entertainment. A raffle will follow the luncheon.

Payment must be received by Tuesday, Nov. 22. Checks should be payable to the Cranston Senior Guild. Please include your choice of entrée and dessert in the memo of the check.

For more information call Lois 401-944-2761 or Sylvia 401-944-812.

Men and women 55 or older are welcome to join the Cranston Senior Guild. You do not have to live in Cranston to become a member.

Diverse talent on display at Temple Habonim Gallery

The November/December exhibit in the Gallery at Temple Habonim features works by three accomplished artists. Their diverse talents speak volumes about art and its possibilities. The show will open with a wine and cheese reception on Nov. 6 from 1 to 3 p.m. and will continue through Jan. 5, 2017.

Photographer Ron Rosenstock, travels the world capturing the beauty of the terrain with his camera. He states, "I am not interested in the appearance of things, but the transformational power of my lens to penetrate into the unknown, into the eternal moment."

Rhode Island College professor of art, John DeMelim has spent 75 years continuously exploring new combinations of materials and ideas. Each medium that he works in feeds and informs his next work. On display will be his collages and assemblages.

Elena Obelenus' career as a textile and surface designer brings an attention to minute detail into her fine arts. Her love of pattern and nature and her perfection in execution are evident in both her ceramics and intaglio solar prints. On view in this exhibit will be her prints.

The Gallery at Temple Habonim is at 165 New Meadow Road in Barrington. Gallery hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment.



"Double Bloom" Elena Obelenus, intaglio solar print

For information, call 401-245-6536 or email gallery@temple-habonim.org.

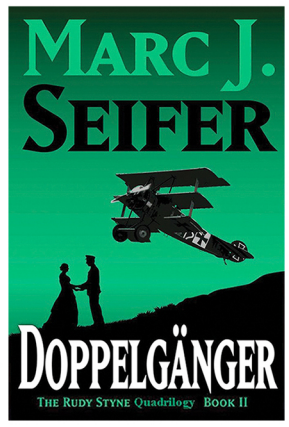


"Untitled Abstract" John DeMelim, assemblage

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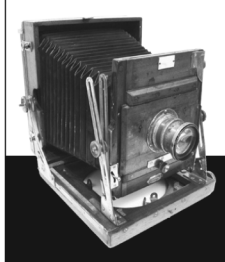
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Terrorist attacks doubled in Jerusalem in September, Israel says

JTA – Terrorist attacks in Jerusalem doubled last month compared to August, according to Israel's security agency, the Shin Bet.

There were 26 attacks in the capital in September, compared to 13 in August, the Shin Bet wrote in its monthly report for September published this week. The number of attacks perpetrated against Israelis in the West Bank remained unchanged at 78.

With the increase in Jerusalem, the total number of attacks against Israelis in September rose to 109, constituting a 17-percent increase over the 93 attacks recorded in August. The August figure was the lowest monthly tally recorded since March 2015 and the first dip since then below the 100-incident mark.

Ten Israelis were wounded in the September attacks, compared to seven in August. September saw no Israeli fatalities from attacks.

More than half of the attacks in September involved the hurling of firebombs.

Despite the increase in attacks in Jerusalem, the September tally was 47-percent lower than the average number of attacks carried out there per month since September 2015.

According to the Palestinian Maan news agency, a total of 274 individuals died during the wave of unrest from Oct. 1, 2015, to Sept. 30 of this year, including 235 Palestinians, many of whom were killed while perpetrating attacks. During that period, attacks caused the death of 34 Israelis and five foreign nationals – two Americans, one Eritrean, one Sudanese, and one Jordanian.

On Oct. 20, Israeli troops in the West Bank shot dead a Palestinian teenager who hurled rocks at a patrol, the Israel Defense Forces said. The incident occurred in the Beit Ummar area near the city of Hebron, a flashpoint for terrorist attacks. The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the slain Palestinian as 15-year-old Khaled Bahar.

Earlier that day, a Palestinian man died from injuries he sustained in 2007 in clashes with Israeli troops, Maan reported. The Makassed hospital announced the death of Mahmoud Jawda, who had been treated at the Jerusalem medical center ever since he was shot multiple times by Israeli troops in Ramallah.



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Rosalind Poll Brooker, 88

NAPLES, FLA. – Judge Rosalind Poll Brooker died on Oct. 16 in Naples, where she had lived for 28 years after her retirement.

A woman of principle, spirit, intelligence, wisdom, love and generosity, Brooker accomplished a great deal of private and public good in her long life. After marriage to Samuel S. Brooker and graduation from the Boston University School of Law in 1952, she returned to New Bedford to begin her practice of law. While developing that practice, she became an integral part of New Bedford's civic life. As an attorney, she volunteered her skills and time to numerous nonprofit organizations. These experiences led her to politics; she was the first woman to be elected to the New Bedford City Council. She later became its first woman president and city solicitor. She also became deeply involved in Republican Party politics and was a confidante or counsel to state and national politicians and particularly close to U.S. Sen. Ed Brooke. She was appointed an administrative law judge by Gov. Francis Sargent and reappointed by Gov. Michael Dukakis.

Judge Brooker's focus, drive, toughness, goodwill and tolerance was the product of a life that required overturning obstacles. She overcame every impediment placed in her path – physical or gender-based – through her command of language, strategic reasoning, grace and the love of her family and friends. Her simple axiom "You fall down, you get up, you achieve" earned her unceasing respect and admiration.

Her husband predeceased her. She is survived by two daughters, a son, six grandchildren, three great-grandsons and two sisters.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Hadassah, www.hadassah.org.

Arlene O. Cherlin, 90

WARWICK, R.I. – Arlene O. Cherlin died Oct. 19 at Steere House. She was the beloved wife of the late Maurice Cherlin. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Harry and Fay (Gordon) Berlinsky, she had lived in Warwick for more than 20 years, previously living in Providence.

She was a graduate of Hope High School, Class of '45. She was a member of Temple Emanu-El, Hadassah and the National Council of Jewish Women. For six years, she was chairman of the Shalom Tenants Association and a member of the Warwick Social Seniors and Jewish Seniors Agency.

She was the devoted mother of Richard Cherlin and his wife, Sherry, of Danvers, Mass., David Cherlin of Warwick and Carolyn Mendelson of Warwick. She was the dear sister of the late Robert, George, Samuel and Adaline Berlinsky. She was the loving grandmother of Noah, Seth, Tess, Darci and the late Adam and cherished great-grandmother of Gabriel, Austin, Samantha and Nathan.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the American Parkinson Disease Association, PO Box 41659, Providence, RI 02940, or The Lewis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry, 100 Niantic Ave., Providence, RI 02907.

Arnold I. Friedman, 88

JACKSON HEIGHTS, N.Y. – Arnold I. Friedman, of Jackson Heights, died Oct. 14 at Fairview Nursing Care Center. He was the beloved husband of Annette Friedman for more than 60 years. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., a son of the late David and Sara Friedman, he had lived in Jackson Heights for more than 50 years.

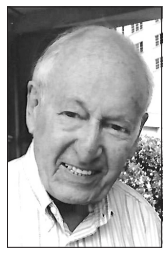
He served as an officer for various investment firms, retiring in 2000. He was a WWII Army veteran. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias and was president of his co-op and on its board of directors.

He was the devoted father of Carol Goldstein of Raleigh, N.C., and Ellen Isaacs of Forest Hills, N.Y. He was the dear brother of the late Gerald and Louis Friedman. He was the loving grandfather of Michael, Heather and Brian.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the United Jewish Appeal, UJA-Federation of New York, 130 East 59th St., New York, NY 10022.

Samuel M. Gourse, 97

SARASOTA, FLA. – Samuel M. Gourse passed away Oct. 15. He was the husband of Bernice (Markoff) Gourse. He was born in Fall River, Mass., the son of the late David and Ada (Israel) Gourse.



He was known for his abundant energy; his whimsical cartoons drawn on any available piece of paper; his beautiful photographs of people, places and things; his memory for details of Fall River from the 1920s through the 20th century; his strong connection to his alma matter, Brown University; and his love for his family, especially his wife of 48 years.

After serving as a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force during WWII, he returned to Fall River to operate his family's clothing store, The Hub, S. Gourse & Sons, a Fall River institution for more than 80 years. He later worked at Paramount Line, Inc. in Pawtucket as the personnel manager.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children Allan Gourse (Elizabeth), Richard Gourse (Wilma), Judith Hoffman, Susan Hynes (Thomas), William Geffner, as well as his sister, Natalie Prokesch. He also leaves his grandchildren Rebecca and Alexander Gourse, Marcus and Alicia Hoffman, Stacy St. Pierre, Michael Hynes, great-granddaughter Jacqueline St. Pierre, and eight nieces and nephews. The family would like to honor and thank the caring team of Sarasota Bay Club Care for their support and kindness in recent years.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Samuel & Bernice Gourse Endowed Scholarship Fund at Brown University.

Beverly J. Malin, 87

TIVERTON, R.I. – Beverly J. Malin passed away surrounded by family Oct. 16. She was the wife of Hebert Malin; they were married for 66 years. She grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., and Williamsport, Pa., and after her marriage lived in Evanston, Ill., Midland, Mich., and then Barrington from 1957 until 2010. She and her husband have been living in Tiverton for the past six years.



Besides her husband, she is survived by her children Judith (Michael Marr), David, and Robert (Denise) Malin; sister Susan Baron Garrett; grandchildren Daniel (Katherine Ortega), Bella and Piper Malin; great-grandchildren Salvador Espinal and Ximena Malin; and nieces and a nephew and their children.

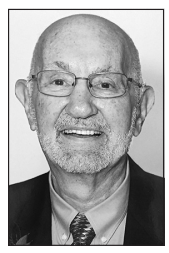
Her life was rich with creative endeavors. She graduated from The Fashion Institute of Technology and later returned to URI for a bachelor's degree and teaching certificate. Her pursuits and work included children's fashion design, family seamstress, painting and drawing, graphic design, teaching, writing poetry, mosaics, upholstery, furniture restoration, extraordinary cook, teaching, acting in various community theater venues, dancing, dedicated shopper, family travel agent before computers, researcher. Later in life, she perfected a whistling accompaniment to any music along with conducting from her seat across all venues: from the backseat of the car to Symphony Hall.

She was active in many community organizations, including the Barrington Players, as a founding member of the Barrington Jewish Center, the BJC Sisterhood, later Temple Habonim, PTO, and was a consumer advocate for the R.I. Attorney General's Office. She wrote many freelance articles published over the years in The Providence Journal. She traveled extensively in Europe and the U.S. with her husband. She was her husband's reluctant crew on their sailboat for many years. She and her husband enjoyed classical music concerts, art museums and theater together.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Disease Center at the BU School of Medicine, where Beverly had been a participant in the Hope Study since 2003, www.bu.edu/alzresearch/about-us/how-to-donate.

Frederick Margolis, 81

FLORIDA – Frederick "Fred" Margolis passed away peacefully on Oct. 14 in Florida surrounded by his wife and four children. Fred was the son of the late Sigmund and Tillie Margolis. He was born in New-

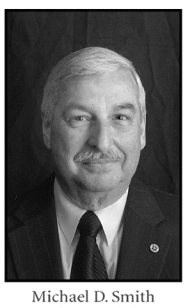


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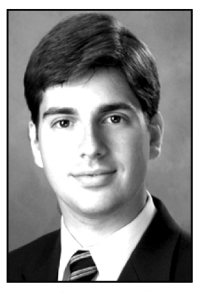
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REMEMBER THE PAST

From the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

An artifact, its tasty history and a story

BY GERALDINE S. FOSTER

The archives of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association hold many treasures, historic moments in the history of the Jews in Rhode Island. Often, equally important, are the stories connected to these treasures, perhaps told in oral histories, or interviews or even in casual conversations. Here is one such artifact, its history and a reminiscence.

The artifact is a rather tattered souvenir book commemorating an organization's 25th anniversary. The rich warm brown cover, embossed with gold decorations, no longer enfolds its pages; it exists only in the memory of those who once held it in their hands.

The organization is the Hebrew Bakers' Union, Local 122 (Bakers and Confectioners Union). The event, a dinner held at Zinn's Restaurant, in Providence, on April 23, 1932, celebrating the union's quarter-century of existence.

The opening greeting, written in Yiddish, tells us: "Twenty-five years ago, a small number of us, who slaved long dark nights to bake bread for others, we ourselves did not have enough to eat. The conditions under which we worked were very hard. … [We] bakers came together and made it clear; this can go no further!" And so, Local 122 was founded to "defend the interests of the bakers." The greeting continues, "in the day of our 25 year Jubilee ... let us take a fresh enthusiasm for our continuing striving until the end, until no longer will there be oppressors and oppressed."

No record exists in the archives of the number of founding members of the Hebrew Bakers' Union, Local 122, or the original officers. Nor is there any official record of the bakery cooperative they started on North Main Street early in 1900. The venture did not last very long. Evidently the members were better bakers than businessmen. At some point, three men involved in the co-op bakery opened Korb's Bakery, also on North Main Street. (The first mention of Korb's is in the 1911 Providence City Directory.)

The last evidence we have of the existence of Local 122 is a copy of a standard contract of the Bakery and Confectioners Union International Local Number 122 with an unnamed employer or master baker. It was unsigned but on the bottom margin someone had written 1963 in a series of dates.

Now the story, a recollection of an event in the earliest days of the union.

The Workmen's Circle (The Arbeiter Ring, in Yiddish) in Providence was a haven for Yiddish-speaking immigrants from Eastern Europe. It was a beneficial organization dedicated to social justice and the rights of workers. It offered, in addition to health benefits, friendship, cultural events, lectures, debates, concerts and outings.

Jacob Pavlow, a friend of my father's, was one of those early immigrants who found a place and a cause in the Workmen's Circle.

During 1906 or '07, Pavlow said, there was a bitter strike in one of the Rhode Island textile mills. The difficult situation of the strikers came to the attention of the Workmen's Circle members, and it troubled them. Pavlow was elected chairman of a fact-finding committee tasked with seeing what help the organization could give the strikers, who received the pitiful sum of about 80 cents a week from the union's coffers.

The Workmen's Circle members could not offer financial assistance, but they could provide bread, the staff of life, for the families. And they did. With the help of the Hebrew Baker's Union Local 122 (which the Workmen's Circle helped to organize), the members baked bread and shipped it to the workers until the strike was settled.

This is just a footnote in the grand sweep of history perhaps, but it is these footnotes that make the history of the Jews in Rhode Island such a colorful tapestry, so interesting and so worth preserving.

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.

FROM PAGE 24

OBITUARIES

port on June 7, 1935. Fred graduated from Rogers High School where he earned All-State and All-America honors in football and was rated as one of the best two-way players at his tackle position. Fred served four years in the U.S. Air Force, two of them in Japan and earned 1st Team All-American status at defensive tackle. Fred turned down the opportunity to go pro and returned to Newport to join the family business, Sigs Market.

In 1976, Fred and his brother Maurice opened Fifth Ward Liquor, which they ran together along with Sigs until 1980. At that time, the brothers split the businesses and Fred continued to run Fifth Ward Liquor, with his wife, Sharon. In 1993 their son Seth joined the business. In 1995 Fred and Sharon retired to Florida, turning the business over to Seth.

Fred was a member of Temple Shalom, Gooseberry Beach and The Newport Lodge of Elks. He enjoyed golf and cards, playing with family and friends. He was an avid Patriots and Yankees fan.

Most of all, he enjoyed time spent with his wife, children and grandchildren. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Sharon, his children Scott and wife Julie of Rockland, Mass., Seth and his wife Erin of Newport, Wayne and his wife Karen of Cumberland and his daughter Staci and her husband Frederick "Reg" Croy of Richmond, RI. He also leaves behind his cherished grandchildren, Mikaela, Lilly, Sarah, Jordan, Ben, Katie, Ellie and Tess Margolis. He is also survived by his brother Maurice and wife Brenda of Lake Worth, Fla., and his sister-in-law Sylvia Margolis of Frisco, Texas. Fred was predeceased by his sister Rita Trust and brother Stanley Margolis.

Donations may be made to the Abbey Delray South Chaplains Fund, 1717 Homewood Blvd., Delray Beach, FL 33445

Neal H. White, 68

WARWICK, R.I. –Neal H. White died peacefully Oct. 22 after a battle with brain cancer. He was the beloved husband of Margi (Berkman) White for 46 years. Born in Providence, a son of the late Sanford and Helen (Goldenberg) White, he had lived in Warwick for more than 41 years.



He was a jewelry manufacturing executive at Sanford White Company, retiring in 2007. He was a graduate of Hope High School (1965) and Bryant College (1969). He was a former wish granter and member of the Board of Directors for Make-a-Wish Foundation of R.I. and volunteered as a magician at Hasbro Children's Hospital as well as at Tamarisk Assisted Living. He was an avid golfer and bridge player and played softball and bowled for many years.

He loved spending time with his two granddaughters, Rebecca and Jenna Blum. He was the devoted father of Holly Blum and her husband, Gary, of Chappaqua, N.Y. and Scott White and his husband, Bruce Churchill, of Boston, Mass. He was the dear brother of Steven White of Providence and Lynn Aaronson of Stoughton, Mass.

Gifts may be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in memory of Neal H. White to support brain cancer research and patient care at http://www.myjimmyfundpage.org/give/nealwhite.

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FROM PAGE 1

BASEBALL

a single season. He homered in four straight games in May and three straight in June, finishing with 28, his highest total since his 31 in 2011. The Tigers infielder had a scary moment when he was hit in the head with a pitch that caused him to miss several days in late September. The Tigers finished with a record of 86-75, second in the American League Central but 2 1/2 games short of a wild card spot.

Key stats: 28 home runs, 88 RBIs, 29 doubles, 14 stolen bases.

Danny Valencia
Oakland Athletics, utility

Valencia approached personal bests in almost every offensive department. Ostensibly a third baseman, Valencia saw action at five positions, including designated hitter. His best game came on May 15, when he hit three homers and drove in five runs in a 7-6 win over the Tampa Bay Rays.

Key stats: 17 home runs, 22 doubles.

Kevin Pillar
Toronto Blue Jays, outfielder

Pillar is a human highlight reel. The Blue Jays outfielder won last year's Wilson Defensive Player of the Year award. Besides his play on the field, Pillar's a *mensch*: He is the team's nominee for the Roberto Clemente Award, which is handed out each year by Major League Baseball in recognition of "extraordinary character, community involvement, [and] philanthropy." Pillar also posted respectable batting numbers as a regular starter.

Key stats: 3.4 WAR (Wins Above Replacement), 35 doubles, .983 fielding percentage, 14 stolen bases.

Joc Pederson
Los Angeles Dodgers, outfielder

Although the lefty-swinging slugger missed two weeks in the beginning of July due to a shoulder injury suffered while making a game-saving catch and had 74 fewer at-bats than in 2015, he still had 100 hits and 25 home runs, just one fewer in each of those categories than in his impressive rookie season last year for the Dodgers. His clutch home run in the playoff series against the Washington Nationals on Oct. 13 helped the Dodgers advance to the National League Championship Series against the Chicago Cubs.

Key stats: 25 home runs, 68 runs batted in, 26 doubles.

Ryan Braun
Milwaukee Brewers, outfielder

The Hebrew Hammer had his best showing since 2012. He enjoyed games of seven, six and five runs batted in and smacked two homers in a single contest six times. The 32-year-old outfielder certainly would have reached the century mark in RBIs for the sixth time in his 10-year career had he not missed 27 games due to injury (plus the birth of his son). Braun was named the Brewers' most valuable player, but the team, which finished fourth in the N.L.'s Central Division, is rumored to be willing to part with its six-time All-Star and his $13 million contract. Like Pillar, Braun was nominated by his team for the Clemente Award.

Key stats: .305 batting average, 30 home runs, 91 RBIs, 16 stolen bases, .538 slugging percentage.

Alex Bregman
Houston Astros, infielder

The promising 22-year-old rookie struggled early after making his major league debut on July 25, going six games before getting his first hit and batting just .198 through 21 games. But the Astros infielder finished strong and wound up with eight home runs and 34 RBIs in 49 games – that works out to 26 homers and 112 RBIs over a full season – and a slash line (batting average/on-base percentage/slugging percentage) of .264/.313/.478. A hamstring injury put him out of action for most of the last three weeks, which may have been a reason the Astros missed an A.L. wild card slot, finishing third in the West with an 84-68 record, five games out of the running.

Key stats (through 49 games): 8 home runs, 34 RBIs, 13 doubles.

Scott Feldman
Houston Astros-Toronto Blue Jays, pitcher

The former 17-game winner had a few mediocre performances as a starting pitcher this year before finding his niche in the bullpen. The tallest of the Jewish players at 6-foot-7, Feldman was dealt from the Houston Astros to the Toronto Blue Jays at the trading deadline but never seemed to mesh with his new team. He was left off the Jays roster for the A.L. Championship Series.

Key stats: 3.97 earned run average, 56 strikeouts in 40 games.

Richard Bleier
New York Yankees, pitcher

The lefty reliever made his major league debut on May 30 and was used mostly as a middle reliever in his 23 appearances. The 29-year-old's best outing came on Sept. 12 against the Dodgers, when he pitched four hitless innings.

Key stats: 1.96 ERA, 1.043 walks/hits per inning pitched.

Ike Davis
Texas Rangers system-New York Yankees, first base

Davis languished in the Texas Rangers' minor league system before being released on June 12. The Yankees picked up the fancy-fielding first baseman the next day, but never really gave him a chance, sending him to the minors after just over a week. The 29-year-old son of former big leaguer Ron Davis was a member of Team Israel, which won the World Baseball Classic qualifier last month in Brooklyn to qualify for the tournament's quarterfinals in March in South Korea.

Jon Moscot,
Cincinnati Reds, pitcher

Moscot, a righty, wouldn't have any luck if he didn't have bad luck. He made five appearances in the majors this year before going down with an inflamed shoulder a year after an intercostal strain ended his rookie season after just three games. Once he healed from the 2016 injury, he spent the rest of the season in the minors.

Brad Ausmus
Detroit Tigers, manager

The former longtime major league catcher finished his third season as Detroit's manager and dealt with the usual set of injuries and slumps that all skippers face. The Tigers finished second in the A.L. Central, narrowly missing a wild card playoff berth, but his job was rumored to have been in danger on several occasions. Ausmus will be back in 2017, but the front office may not have much patience if the team gets off to a slow start.

RON KAPLAN is the author of the forthcoming book "Hank Greenberg in 1938: Hatred and Home Runs in the Shadow of War" and host of Kaplan's Korner, a blog about Jews and sports.





WE ARE READ IN UZBEKISTAN – Rachel Friedberg read The Jewish Voice recently in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The small remaining Jewish communities of the area, formerly the Emirate of Bukhara, are believed to date from the Babylonian exile, later becoming traders along the Silk Road and speaking their own dialect of Hebrew-inflected Persian. The community sheltered many Polish Jewish refugees in their synagogues and homes during the Holocaust, including Rachel's father.



WE ARE READ IN PRAGUE – Susan and Howie Bromberg were recently on a trip to Central Europe when they bumped into Dr. Andy and Beverly Blazer, who were on a different trip. This photo was taken at the Holocaust Memorial located in one of the old synagogues in Prague's Jewish quarter. Howie had been carrying The Voice around for two weeks waiting for the right moment to take a picture – and this was it. Left to right: Howie Bromberg, Susan Bromberg, Dr. Andy Blazer and Beverly Blazer.

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