the JEWISH VOICE

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WOMEN IN BUSINESS



PHOTO | VOICE FILES

Gilor Meshulam at a farewell reception held in his honor in June.

Back to Israel for Gilor Meshulam

BY LARRY KATZ

For the past two years, Gilor Meshulam served as the *shaliach* (Israeli emissary) throughout Rhode Island. His list of activities is long: he taught in several schools, worked with Hillel members at the University of Rhode Island and at Brown University, worked with local youth groups, spoke in synagogues, led discussions at the Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence as well as the two Kosher Senior Cafes, and even spoke to groups such as Rotary and Jewish War Veterans.

The *Yom HaZikaron* (Israeli Memorial Day) events that he organized were especially memorable as he brought a personal touch to these events.

After completing his mission, funded by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and the Jewish Agency for Israel, he left in mid-August to resume his life in Israel. Accompanying him is Rachel Shmookler, his fiancée, a native of Buffalo who has been working in South County.

Ahad Ha'am, a philosopher of Zionism who lived a century ago, wrote:

"The people's heart is the foundation on which the land will be built."

Ahad Ha'am lived before Israel became an independent nation, so he was looking into the future. However, even beyond 1948, his pronouncement applies. The mission of Zionism is to continually rebuild the State of Israel. We must not only defend it, but we must build the Jewish character of Israel in

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A WEEKEND AWAY WITH (401)J



PHOTO | JEWISH ALLIANCE OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

More than 30 NextGen-ers (ages 25-45) participated in the recent 2nd Annual (401) j Shabbaton at Camp JORI. The weekend was filled with both praying and playing. Activities included noshing, Cranium Dark, a Torah Service overlooking Worden's Pond, Maccabiah Games, ropes courses, kayaking, niggun *chanting and a paint night facilitated by The Proud Painter, a traveling painting party.*

226 years later, Washington's words resonate



PHOTO | ARIEL BROTHMAN

Wesley J. Fastiff speaks.

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

A few days after visiting Newport in August 1790, President George Washington sent a letter to the area's Jews affirming one of the key principles of the new nation: religious liberty. And, 226 years later, New Englanders still gather in Newport every year to hear Washington's words.

This year, on Aug. 21, Newport's Touro Synagogue was once again filled with speakers, community leaders and residents from all spheres of life, all awaiting the 69th annual

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THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE

"Would your life change for the better if you did not have the gadgets and gizmos that you depend upon?"

First day of school all around the town



Students enjoyed a variety of activities on Aug. 29 at the David C. Isenberg Early Childhood Center at the Dwares JCC.



PHOTOS | PHDS

Pinny and Elisheva Berlin bring their children to the Providence Hebrew Day School on Aug. 29 – the first day of school. Do you see the smiles on the children's faces?





To culminate last year's bucket filling project, each PHDS student decorated a tile on the last day of school. These are some of the beautiful tiles that the students created when they returned to school after a well-deserved summer vacation.







Artistic Director Joel Gluck directs Shireinu at a recent Temple Sinai Shabbat service.

Jewish Community Chorus of Temple Sinai seeks singers

BY CATHERINE WALTERS

Love to sing? Shireinu, the Jewish Community Chorus of Temple Sinai, is seeking new members as it prepares for its 10th anniversary season.

Under the direction of artistic director Joel Gluck, the chorus explores and presents a wide variety of Jewish music from the Bible and liturgy, folklore, and modern Jewish life. These sources and streams of the Jewish choral tradition illuminate our unique heritage and foster Jewish identity through music.

The chorus's repertoire reflects the works of significant Jewish composers from the Renaissance through contemporary times, as well as modern interpretations of folk and liturgical melodies that reach back many centuries. No audition is required to join Shireinu.

"As a people, it is important that we preserve the great wealth of Jewish music," Gluck says. "Current Jewish music has its roots going all the way back to the time of the Italian Renaissance. Shireinu takes pride in helping to preserve this rich musical history.

"Our goal is not only to entertain, but also educate. It is imperative that we don't lose this vast library that peeks into the history of our tradition. Our repertoire spans over 400 years of music and we can't let it die over time. We must continue to keep it alive for generations to come – *l'dor v'dor* [from generation to generation]."

As a community chorus, Shireinu is open to singers of any affiliation or religious background.

Shireinu brings inspiration and enrichment to Temple Sinai's religious services, holiday celebrations and special events. The chorus also reaches out to older adults in area assisted-living communities, with concerts featuring familiar Jewish folk music and sing-alongs.

In addition, Shireinu participates in joint concerts and observances in the wider Jewish and interfaith communities, such as the Cranston Clergy Association's community-wide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, and has participated in Martin Luther King Jr. observances in Cranston and Providence.

In the coming months, the ensemble will highlight music of the Sephardic tradition, both secular and religious, and a 10th anniversary celebration is planned for later in the year.

The chorus rehearses at Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston, on most Sunday mornings during the school year, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The group will be joining Temple Sinai's new cantor, Deborah Johnson, for the *Selichot* service, to be held this year on Sept. 24.

Interested? Come to a special open rehearsal on Sunday, Oct. 23, at 9:30 a.m. in the Temple Sinai sanctuary. Guests will find Shireinu a warm, friendly group. All you need to bring is your voice and your enthusiasm!

For more information, contact Catherine Walters at 401-419-7698 or margalit_rut@hotmail.com.



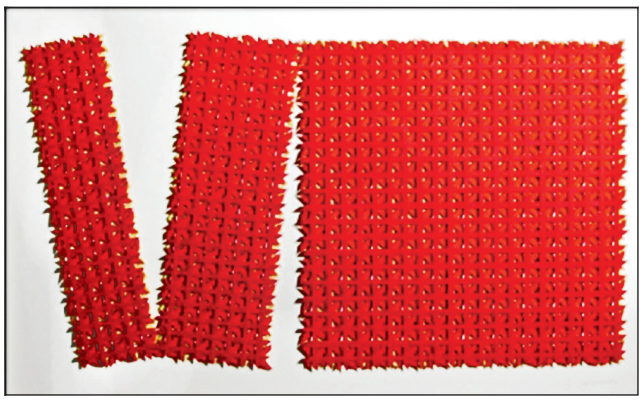
Shireinu helps celebrate the 90th birthday of longtime chorus member Ruth Snyder.



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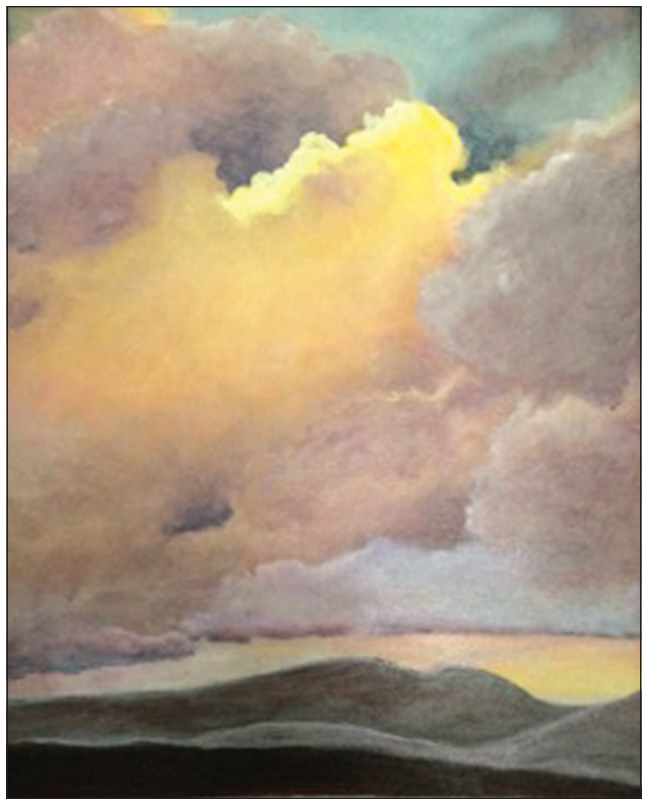
Robert Pillsbury

Three artists working in three mediums at Temple Habonim

The September/October exhibit in the Gallery at Temple Habonim features more than 30 works by three outstanding artists, working in three very different mediums. Each is a master of the complex, yet the message is in their understatement.

Photographer David S. Pinkham, a former educator, now devotes his time and travels to digital photography. He believes that true artistry comes from within – not from a camera. His work portrays his vision of the world that he sees.

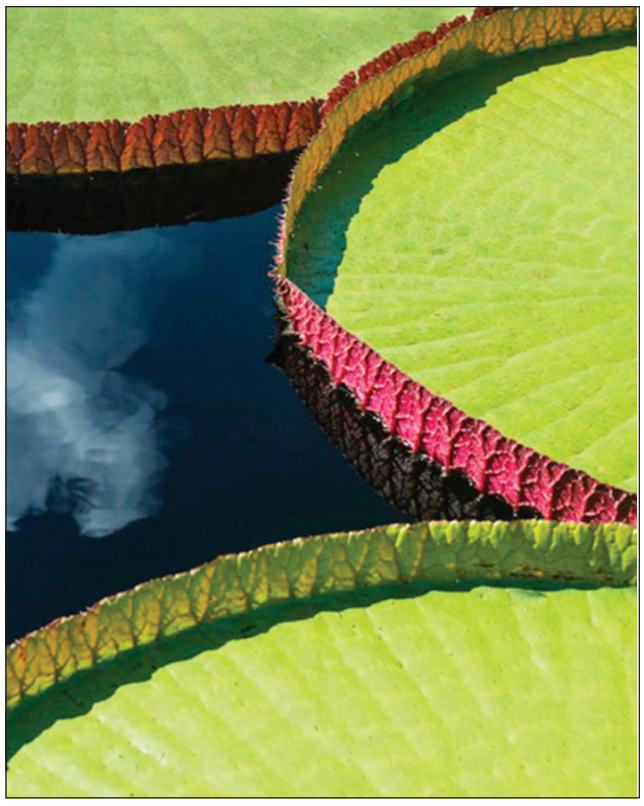
Working in acrylics, painter Joanne King uses color to unfold a worldview of beauty. Her expertise with brush and canvas reveals a perspective of peace and simplicity, within the underlying complexity of her subject matter.



Joanne King

Robert Pillsbury's cut paper constructions build upon his career as an architect. The precision of his handcut work and the art that evolves amazes the viewer. He "builds" upon a sense of design, color and space.

The show opens with a wine and cheese reception on Sunday, Sept. 11 from 1 to 3 p.m. and continues through Oct. 27.



David S. Pinkham

The Gallery at Temple Habonim is at 165 New Meadow Road in Barrington. Hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. by appointment. For information, 401-245-6536 or email gallery@templehabonim.org.

Successful sale

People from all over lined up on Sunday, Aug. 28, to buy the contents of the Temple Am David building. The sale started at 9 a.m. By noon, much had been sold, including the contents of the gift shop, office furniture, religious school furniture and two of the eight Torahs. Receivor Ted Orson said he had inquiries about three more. An auction took place at 2 p.m. where Orson hoped to sell everything that remained but the Torahs, which will go to a broker.



PHOTOS | FRAN OSTENDORF







Scenes from inside Temple Am David during the sale.

the JEWISH VOICE

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IT'S ON!
2017 Annual Campaign kicks off early and ready to roll with a dynamic duo

BY PHILANTHROPY STAFF

The Jewish Alliance Annual Campaign season is about to begin, and optimism and enthusiasm abound. Co-chairs Susan Froehlich and Jamie Pious, longtime lay leaders, make quite a team. They have the experience, dedication and foresight to kick off the campaign season with gusto.

"There's always a community buzz this time of year. People are winding down from summer and looking forward to the High Holy Days, the cooler weather, the start of school. With this renewed energy comes increased generosity. We want to engage that awareness to springboard the Annual Campaign," said Froehlich.

There is a shift in timeline this year. Instead of culminating with Super Sunday, which is typically held in December, the campaign will kick off with Super Sunday, set for Sunday, Sept. 18. The co-chairs also seek to close gifts earlier, making the allocation funding process smoother so that partner agencies relying on community funding are able to plan more effectively for the coming program and service year.

Funds raised through the Annual Campaign address critical needs and strengthen the community locally and overseas with compassion, innovation and purpose. Most recently, during the 2016 Annual Campaign, the community raised $3.2M and allocated funding that benefits more than 300 programs and services worldwide.

"Having sat on the Community Development Committee (CDC) and held the role of CDC chair for several years, seeing firsthand where the money goes, meeting with the partner agencies to discuss needs and impact, I understand just how crucial every dollar truly is. That's why my goal as co-chair is to grow the campaign by at least 10 percent. It's certainly not an unattainable goal. This community can do it. We will do it. We have to do it," said Pious.

Froehlich and Pious satisfy the perfect balance between programming and fundraising. Both are committed to learning the ins and outs of Jewish philanthropy and actively participating in the process, encouraging the importance of giving Jewishly to assure the future of our community.



Jamie Pious



Susan Froehlich

"One of my goals for campaign this year is to change what's been done before so we reach and inspire younger generations to give and get involved. The need for donors and volunteers only grows greater each year, here at home and across the world, particularly with anti-Semitism on the rise," Froehlich said, acknowledging that most often only Jews support Jewish programming.

In September, Froehlich will receive the Kipnes-Wilson/Friedland Award at the International Lion of Judah conference sponsored by Jewish Federations of North America. The award, which her mother received 10 years ago, honors one Lion in each community exemplifying the spirit of Lion of Judah, a special society representing generous Jewish women who make a great commitment to philanthropy by attaining specific giving levels.

Froehlich's ongoing commitment to *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam*, her many leadership roles at the Alliance, and her decision to establish a Lion of Judah Endowment to sustain a vibrant Jewish future make her a clear winner for this honor. As 2017 Annual Campaign co-chair, Froehlich aims to reach those who have also been touched by intergenerational giving.

With the excitement surrounding the Annual Campaign, as well as the co-chairs, countless community donors, and volunteers, the Alliance is better positioned to shape the community's Jewish future, creating meaning, vibrancy and engagement. For these reasons alone, every gift to the campaign matters.

"This role challenges me to step out of my comfort zone to make sure we do all we can as a community to ensure that every dollar raised counts for today and tomorrow," Pious said.

FOR INFORMATION on how to contribute to the Annual Campaign or to learn more about the importance of giving Jewishly throughout the year, contact Trine Lustig, vice president of Philanthropy at tlustig@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 223.

Keep an eye out for this symbol on all Jewish Alliance articles relating to philanthropy and the impact of your Annual Campaign dollars at work.



Keeping the discourse civil in our own community



EDITOR

FRAN OSTENDORF

Are you weary of the political campaign? Many people are. But just as many seem to relish the national debate, as down and dirty as it may get.

It feels as if the country has been embroiled in the back and forth of the presidential campaign for a long time, yet it only started about a year ago. And there are still about 10 weeks remaining.

I saw a report this weekend about a Wisconsin focus group of undecided voters where every person interviewed said they wished the candidates would focus on the issues and not the personal stuff. Each person, without exception, said he or she was tired of the attacks and hostility. One man, weary of "the circus," said he just wanted "to see the meat and potatoes of it all."

Here in Rhode Island, there are a number of contested races happening in the national shadow, including for the seat now held by the speaker of the house. Right now, you hear little about these contests, and see just a few lawn signs. I suspect you'll hear and see a great deal more in the coming weeks.

Many have accused the media of fanning the national fires, or even inciting the rhetoric. The Jewish Voice is starting to receive opinion pieces from our loyal readers about candidates and issues. So, how are we going to handle these sometimes contentious articles?

Carefully.

We want to serve as a forum for our readers, but we are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which means we cannot offer an opinion as to how we feel – as a newspaper or as individual employees of the paper – about the election. You will not be reading about how we will vote, and we will not be endorsing any candidates. In addition, we cannot print any opinion pieces written by employees of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island advocating for a specific candidate. We can advocate for issues, but not for candidates.

So, in the five papers until the November election, you will see articles on both sides of issues, many with a Jewish point of view. You may also see opinion pieces written by your friends and neighbors advocating for one viewpoint or candidate. These opinions are strictly those of the writer. They do not reflect the opinions of The Jewish Voice or the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

And we want to keep the discourse civil. If you write, please, no mean-spirited name-calling. No attacks on another writer. We all know we can make our point without nastiness. Let's stick to the issues, shall we?

Please remember that we have rules for both opinion pieces and letters to the editor. Opinion pieces should be between 500 and 800 words. Letters to the editor should be no more than 300 words. All submissions should include your name, city of residence and contact phone number, for verification purposes. Also, we can only publish what space allows, and we may publish some pieces online only.

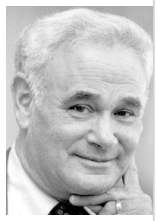
Remember, you can submit everything via our website, jvhri.org. Simply register and follow the instructions to create your article. We will review it promptly.

We welcome robust dialogue. But let's keep our forum and our debates a notch above the national discourse.

Traditions?

We love to feature our readers and their stories in The Voice. Upcoming issues will focus on the High Holy Days and B'nai Mitzvah. What are your memories of these special days? What are your family traditions? Send us your stories. Post your photos to our website. You just might be featured in a future issue of The Jewish Voice. Email to editor@jewishallianceri.org. Post to jvhri.org. Send by traditional mail to Editor, The Jewish Voice, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906.

Is God both he and she?



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

On Friday evening, June 17, I was one of about 100 people attending the fifth annual LGBTQ Pride Shabbat at Temple Habonim, in Barrington. The service was one of a large number taking place in Reform synagogues throughout the world during the month of June.

Supplementing the traditional liturgy were a number of special readings celebrating our human diversity as expressed through our personal sexual orientation and gender identity.

Before the concluding prayers, Hunter Keith, a transgender teen, spoke movingly about his transformation from woman to man, from daughter to son, from sister to brother. Hunter's parents, Roz and Richard, also spoke, emphasizing their loving support of their son's decision, despite their initial shock and confusion.

When I was growing up in New Jersey in the 1940s and 1950s, transgender men and women were invisible. The social world in which I was living could not even imagine that a man would want to be a woman or that a woman would want to be a man, although somewhere in the fringes of my consciousness floated awareness of Christine Jorgensen, a woman who was once a man.

In those days, gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals were all locked securely in the closet. Out of sight, out of mind. Given the uncertainty of the Cold War, given the ever-present threat of "the bomb," at least we could count on the "certainty" of our sexual orientation and our gender identity.

By way of contrast, today transgender issues have become part of our national conversation. Rabbi Mark Sameth has raised this discussion to a theological level in his op-ed piece, "Is God Transgender?," in the Aug. 13 issue of The New York Times.

In his very first sentences, Sameth tells us that back in the 1970s, his cousin, Paul Monroe Grossman, became his cousin Paula Grossman, "one of the first people in America to undergo sex-reassignment surgery. She was fired [from her position as a music teacher in New Jersey] after her surgery, and she subsequently lost her suit for wrongful termination based on sex discrimination."

Sameth is hopeful that, in today's far more liberal social environment, discrimination against transgender people will soon become a thing of the past.

Informed by the experience of his cousin Paula, Sameth tries to demonstrate in his column that "the Hebrew Bible, when read in its original language, offers a highly elastic view of gender." He points out, for example, that "[i]n Genesis 3:12, Eve is referred to as 'he.'"

> **"... Rabbi Lawrence Kushner states the essence of the entire TANAKH in these few words: "I'm God; you're not!."**

In Genesis 9:21, after the flood, Noah repairs to "her" tent. Genesis 24:16 refers to Rebecca as a "young man."

In each of these instances, Sameth is referring to the *k'tiv*, the original written form of the texts, as opposed to the subsequent *k'ri*, the traditional vocalized text, which is to be read out loud and which "corrects" the gender forms.

Sameth insists: "These are not typos. In the ancient world, well-expressed gender fluidity was the mark of a civilized person. ... In ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt, the gods were thought of as gender-fluid, and human beings were considered reflections of the gods."

I do not find Sameth's arguments convincing. There are a number of ways to interpret the texts he cites without coming to the conclusion that they exemplify the notion of gender-fluidity among the ancient Israelites or in their notion of God. And I am baffled when Sameth affirms, without a shred of evidence, that "[t]he Israelite priests would have read the [four] Hebrew letters [of the name of God: YHVH] in reverse as *Hu/Hi* – in other words, the hidden name of God was Hebrew for 'He/She.'"

There is a limit to how far one can push the facts to fit a deeply felt, though idiosyncratic, theory.

While I question the evidence that Sameth marshals to argue that the Hebrew Bible "offers a highly elastic view of gender," I am sympathetic to his questioning the widely held view that the Hebrew Bible reflects a strictly patriarchal view of God.

The Hebrew Bible, our *TANAKH*, is not a unified book but rather a library composed and assembled over 1,000 years or so. As such, it includes multiple views regarding the gender identity of God; it reveals a God who reflects the views of the Israelites who worshipped him/her/it.

While the patriarchal God dominates the Hebrew Bible, there are also moments of gender fluidity within the biblical expressions of God. It seems to me that Sameth is wildly overstating the case when he proclaims that "the God of Israel – the God of the three monotheistic, Abrahamic religions to which fully half the people on the planet belong – was understood by its earliest worshippers to be a dual-gendered deity."

To this day, we continue to project our deepest values onto the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. As we have seen, Sameth prizes the notion and the reality of gender fluidity. Not surprisingly, he looks for evidence in the Hebrew Bible that reveals a God who is gender-fluid, both he and she. Similarly, those who insist that God is exclusively "he" will find ample support in the *TANAKH* for their patriarchal views.

Our differing notions of God, then, reflect our most deeply held values, our most profound sense of personal worth, dignity and integrity. Nevertheless, God is more than the sum of our human values and aspirations. As we learn from the story of Moses at the burning bush (Exodus, Chapter 3), God will be who God will be. My colleague, Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, states the essence of the entire *TANAKH* in these few words: "I'm God; you're not!"

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

OUR MISSION

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

COLUMNS | LETTERS POLICY

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

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

Quit the failed attempts to paint Democrats as weak on Israel

BY MICHAEL M. ADLER

MIAMI (JTA) – Every four years the same movie plays at the Jewish Political Film Festival: It's the one where the Democrats pass another party platform with more ironclad support for Israel and then nominate yet another presidential candidate whose record on Israel is beyond question. The ending is always the same, too, with two-thirds to three-quarters of American Jews voting for the Democrat.

This year will be no different.

American Jews again will vote for the Democratic candidate, confident that Democrats will have Israel's back.

Not only is this year's Democratic Party platform ironclad when it comes to support for Israel, but the Democratic presidential nominee also is resolute in her defense of the Jewish state.

The platform is unequivocal in calling a strong and secure Israel "vital to the United States." Vowing to "ensure that Israel always has the ability to defend" itself, the platform pledges to "support Israel's right to defend itself, including by retaining its qualitative military edge, and [to] oppose any effort to delegitimize Israel."

It is also the first party platform to promise that the United States will fight boycotts, sanctions and divestment efforts against Israel. The platform states the U.S. will work "toward a two-state solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict negotiated directly by the parties that guarantees Israel's future as a secure and democratic Jewish state with recognized borders." And it says Jerusalem should "remain the capital of Israel, an undivided city accessible to people of all faiths."

It is hard to imagine a more pro-Israel platform, particularly given the fears that some people had over the makeup of the platform committee, whose members included individuals with strong pro-Palestinian leanings.

It's also hard to imagine a more pro-Israel candidate than Hillary Clinton, who in a June foreign policy address called Israel's security "non-negotiable." "They're our closest ally in the region," she said, "and we have a moral obligation to defend them."

Clinton has also demonstrated her pro-Israel bona fides as a U.S. senator and secretary of state.

She has condemned Palestinian incitement numerous times throughout the years, sponsored a Senate resolution calling for the Magen David Adom's inclusion in the International Red Cross, fought for bills to combat anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial, brokered a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, and criticized the U.N. Human Rights Council for its "structural bias against Israel."

Clinton helped equip Israel with the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, advocated for the Iron Dome rocket defense system and upgraded Patriot missiles, condemned the unfair and maligned Goldstone Report, and opposed anti-Israel resolutions at the United Nations and other international bodies.

Her relationship with Israel extends back to her days as first lady of Arkansas, when she brought to that state Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters, an educational program developed in Israel. Her ties to Israel have continued throughout the decades.

Contrast Clinton's proven support for Israel with her opponent's lack of coherent policy on Israel – or any coherent foreign policy. One day Donald Trump says the United States will be "neutral" on Israel. Another day he says his "primary consultant" on foreign policy "is myself and I have a good instinct for this stuff." He questions Israel's commitment to peace and says he'll make Israel pay for American aid.

Trump appeals to racists and anti-Semites, and his "America first" promises would lead to an isolationist and nativist America that abandons its allies, including Israel. Shimon Peres, a former president of Israel, said such a policy would be a "very great mistake."

Peres is among a growing number of Israelis and Republicans who recognize that a Trump presidency would be dangerous. William Kristol, a neoconservative, ardent Zionist and editor of The Weekly Standard, said a Trump presidency would weaken America, which "is not good for Israel."

Fifty Republican security experts signed a letter stating that Trump would be "the most reckless president in American history," and has demonstrated that "he has little understanding of America's vital national interests, its complex diplomatic challenges, its indispensable alliances, and the democratic values on which U.S. foreign policy must be based."

Those "vital national interests" and "indispensable alliances" include Israel.

Chuck Freilich, a former Israeli deputy national security adviser, called Trump a "loose cannon," telling Haaretz, "This can produce not just diplomatic confusion and discord – but it can lead to wars in the Middle East."

Pro-Israel Republicans, rather than wasting money on the fear of Democrats bringing even more American Jews to their party, particularly this year, should instead put their efforts into ensuring that American support for Israel remains bipartisan.

Let's bring down the curtain on failed attempts to paint Democrats as weak on Israel. It's untrue, it's not working and it's not helpful – to Israel.

MICHAEL M. ADLER is treasurer of Jews for Progress, a pro-Hillary Clinton super PAC, and is a former chair of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

Your only Rhode Island
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It's indisputable: The GOP is the pro-Israel party

BY JEFF BALLABON AND BRUCE ABRAMSON

WASHINGTON (JTA) – For years, the leaders of America's most established Jewish organizations – AIPAC chief among them – have assured their members that when it came to Israel, there wasn't much difference between the Democratic and Republican parties. Even suggesting that control of the White House or Congress might matter to the U.S.-Israel relationship was taboo, often decried as "anti-Israel" if not "anti-Semitic."

The 2016 platform debates and conventions have shattered this outlandish insistence that in our hyperpartisan era, Israel policy somehow managed to remain neutral territory. It is now indisputable that the parties have radically different views of Israel.

To the extent that any bipartisanship persists, it is only among the least pro-Israel Republicans and the most pro-Israel Democrats. According to their "less than comprehensively anti-Israel" view, Israelis and Arabs are more or less equally culpable, Israel must risk its national security and the lives of its citizens, and an independent, Judenrein Arab state in the historic Jewish heartland is an imperative.

Though the politicians on both sides of the aisle backing this vision may see themselves as pragmatic, moderate centrists looking out for Israel's interests, what they actually advocate is rejecting Israel's status as a favored ally, ignoring history and law, and capitulating to Arab intransigence and inhumanity.

Moreover, the bases of both parties reject this view. The Republican base sees no moral equivalence between Israelis building a pluralistic, liberal democracy of which all decent people should be proud and the Palestinian Authority presiding over a genocidal, suicidal death cult. Members of the Democratic base, as we saw during their convention, reiterate the slanders of Jimmy Carter, Bernie Sanders and Cornel West, while some burned an Israeli flag in symbolic solidarity with the death cult whose own flags were proudly waved on the convention floor.

West spoke for much of the Democratic base – and 43 percent of the platform committee – when he framed his antipathy for Israel as "a moral issue" and called for "an end to occupation and illegal settlements" and for "rebuild[ing] Gaza, which the U.N. warns could be uninhabitable by 2020." Hillary Clinton's politically savvy advisers, understanding that anti-Israel agitation would play poorly in the general election (overall, Americans still side with Israel over the Palestinians, 62 percent to 15 percent, according to a recent Gallup poll) preferred boilerplate language similar to the DNC's 2012 platform: "Israelis deserve security, recognition and a normal life free from terror and incitement. Palestinians should be free to govern themselves in their own viable state, in peace and dignity." In short, a statement of moral equivalence.

The Republicans had reluctantly accepted comparable boilerplate language in 2012, tempering far stronger pro-Israel sentiment among the base to accommodate AIPAC's insistence that such moral equivalence reflected the American Jewish consensus. In 2016, however, the GOP resisted such pressure. The party's base rallied behind a more definitively pro-Israel approach that embraces the moral superiority of Israel's position and Israel's unconditional sovereignty.

It is this platform language – to which we proudly contributed – that Democrats and their enablers in establishment American Jewish groups have intentionally and repeatedly mischaracterized as standing "to the right of Netanyahu" in its "rejection of a two-state solution." No one actually reading the words of the 2016 GOP platform plank on Israel could possibly reach these conclusions.

The Republican platform's actual language recognizes Israel as a fellow liberal democracy and a strategic ally; restates an existing American law declaring an indivisible Jerusalem as Israel's capital; upholds our ally's right to defend itself against military threats, terror attacks and other forms of warfare; labels as false the widely accepted canard that Israel is an "occupier;" and recognizes the anti-Semitism behind the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement that has targeted Jewish interests far from Israel.

It closes with a longing for "comprehensive and lasting peace" negotiated among the residents of the Middle East and opposing outside pressure designed to impose any specific proposal.

That's the sum and substance of what today's Democrats consider extremism: acknowledging the rights of Jews in the land of Israel, embracing a fellow liberal democracy and strategic ally, supporting its efforts to defend itself and encouraging it to negotiate with its neighbors.

Nothing in the new GOP platform "rejects" or creates even the slightest impediment to a two-state solution. It simply refocuses American interests correctly – in support of our ally Israel's sovereignty and security – rather than in pursuit of "self-determination" for a Palestinian Authority, the PLO's legal and moral successor, which continues to incite and support terror and has explicitly abandoned even the pretext of a peace process.

The chasm between the parties is clear. Today's Democrats are split among those who see moral equivalence between Israel and the P.A. and those who see Israel as a rogue apartheid state committing repeated war crimes against Palestinian victims. To the Republicans, Israel is a close and valued ally under unprecedented attack, worthy of the same commitment and support we extend to our closest allies. These views of Israel and the policy consequences that flow from them are very, very different.

A bipartisan consensus that actually supports Israel remains a worthy ideal. As the 2016 conventions showed, it is very far from what we have today. Americans who care about Israel face a clear choice. There is no use pretending otherwise.

JEFF BALLABON is chairman of the Iron Dome Alliance and a senior fellow at the Center for Statesmanship and Diplomacy. **BRUCE ABRAMSON** is vice president for policy of the Iron Dome Alliance and a senior fellow at the London Center for Policy Research.

Statement of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Alliance of Greater R.I. on The Movement for Black Lives anti-Israel platform

The Community Relations Council of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island (CRC) has had a strong relationship with the African-American community. Together, we have worked hand-in-hand on issues of social justice and discrimination. This includes programs and civil rights dialogue as well as working to reduce poverty.

Recently, however, the Movement for Black Lives' policy platform includes statements that the CRC finds disturbing and troubling as it relates to the general and Jewish communities.

The CRC finds the policy platform's reference to the State of Israel committing "genocide" and as "an apartheid state" repellent and deplorable. Likewise, the CRC rejects the platform's notion of equating the experiences and challenges of African-Americans to Palestinians suffering under the Hamas terrorist regime. This language wrongly and harmfully brings together the urgent need to address the systemic racism faced by people of color in the United States with another challenging, but completely different, set of moral and political questions within the context of the Middle East conflict.

The CRC strongly condemns the platform's provisions demonizing Israel and promoting the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. Ultimately this and other statements do little to advance peace between Israelis and Palestinians. At the same time, rather than bringing the Jewish community closer to the African-American community, such statements have the power to do the opposite. This, we feel, is sad, and a more than likely unintended consequence of the platform.

The troubling statements in the platform are likely the result of misinformation provided by those representing anti-Israel and anti-Zionist agendas. These incendiary terms are not only inaccurate, but serve to incite and divide rather than to unite us around our shared values and priorities.

We urge the Movement for Black Lives to reevaluate their platform's antagonistic tone and remove blatant falsehoods and mischaracterizations of the world's only Jewish state.

Finally, we will not allow the platform's distressing terminology to detract from the CRC and the Jewish community's unequivocal commitment to the pursuit of equality, civil rights and racial justice. The CRC will continue to work with the African-American community to address systemic racism that exists in the United States and move our world toward a place of equal power, access, opportunities, and treatment for all people.

Our Jewish values demand it, and our world requires it.

Poll: Most Israelis, Palestinians oppose current bilateral peace plan

BY ANDREW TOBIN

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Most Israelis and Palestinians oppose the kind of peace deal that has been under negotiation in the past, a new poll found.

Nearly 60 percent of both Israeli Jews and Palestinians said they were against the permanent status agreement they were presented based on previous Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, according to the joint poll by leading Israeli and Palestinian think tanks. But about a quarter of those opposed would reconsider if the deal were part of a broader regional peace based on the Arab Peace Initiative.

"It is very clear that a majority of Israelis and Palestinians at this point have responded with opposition to the package," Khalil Shikaki, the director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, told JTA. "However, we were able to easily change their minds simply by adding the Arab peace component. We got close to 55 percent support for the package when it is an Arab-Israeli peace rather than just a Palestinian-Israeli peace."

The Palestinian think tank and the Israel Democracy Institute, a leading research center in Jerusalem, surveyed 1,184 Israelis and 1,270 Palestinians, revealing little consensus on the parameters of peace and mistrust and fear of the other on both sides – along with some hope for flexibility.

Some 59 percent of Israelis and a slight majority of Palestinians, 51 percent, support a two-state solution to the conflict, the poll found. But a majority of Israelis (57 percent) and nearly half of Palestinians (47 percent) think a majority of their people opposes two states.

"This has far-reaching implications because if you feel you are part of the minority, you will be less outspoken and proactive and confident," Tamar Hermann, the academic director of the Israel Democracy Institute's Guttman Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research, told JTA. "If you belong to the majority but you believe you are part of the minority, you will act like the minority. It's a spiral of silence."

One in five Israeli Jews and one in three Palestinians wants a one-state solution, meaning a single state for Israelis and Palestinians rather than an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. Last year, 51 percent of both Israelis and Palestinians supported a two-state solution, according to a similar survey conducted annually by the Palestinian center with the Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace at the Hebrew University starting in 2000.

"This has far-reaching implications because if you feel you are part of the minority, you will be less outspoken and proactive and confident."

The peace deal offered in the latest poll provides for a demilitarized Palestinian state, reciprocal national recognition, Israeli withdrawal to its pre-1967 borders with territorial swaps, the reunification of 100,000 Palestinians with families in Israel, the division of Jerusalem and its holy sites, and the end of conflict and claims. A multinational force would be set up in the Palestinian state, and Israel would maintain two early warning stations in the West Bank for 15 years.

While 55 percent of Israeli Jews and 59 percent of Palestinians oppose the deal, a minority of Israeli Jews and Palestinians (39 percent) back it, as do 90 percent of Israeli Arabs. Twenty-six percent of those Israeli Jews would be willing to change their mind if the Arab states agreed to peace based on the Arab Peace Initiative, and 25 percent of those Palestinians would do the same if Israel accepted the initiative, which was first proposed in 2002.

There is little trust between Israelis and Palestinians, the poll revealed. The vast majority of Palestinians (89 percent) feel Israeli Jews are untrustworthy, and most Israeli Jews (68 percent) feel that way about Palestinians. A minority of both Israelis and Palestinians (43 percent) believe the other side wants peace, and large majorities on both sides (77 percent of Israelis and 73 percent of Palestinians) think the chance of an independent Palestinian state being established in the next five years is "very low."

Half of Israeli Jews, 61 percent of Israeli Arabs and 70 percent of Palestinians agree: "Nothing can be done that's good for both sides; whatever is good for one side is bad for the other side."

Sixty-five percent of Israelis say they fear Palestinians, while 54 percent of Palestinians say they do not fear Israeli Jews, according to the poll. Israelis and Palestinians tend to perceive each other's national motives to be much more extreme than they do their own side's.

Most Israelis (64 percent) and a large minority (43 percent) of Palestinians support mutual recognition of Israeli and Palestinian national identities. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's insistence on such was an obstacle in the last round of American-led Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in 2013-14.

Among both Israelis and Palestinians, religious observance and political leaning are predictive of backing for the

POLL | 24

LETTER

Re: R.I. lawmakers fail to restrict guns (Aug. 19)

In Mr. Leach's article "Despite increased public support, R.I. lawmakers fail to restrict guns," the two biggest factors of violence are omitted: alcohol and drugs. Alcohol and drugs are implicated in an estimated 80 percent of offenses leading to incarceration in the U.S. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, two-thirds of victims suffering violence report the perpetrator had been drinking. Pressuring state representatives to enact stricter gun laws will do nothing to stop violence related to drugs and alcohol.

I question the methodology used to conduct the poll for RICAGV. Do 605 people polled represent the majority of Rhode Islanders? Residents polled were asked a question, given more information and then asked the same question again. Mr. Leach's statement "a high percentage of Rhode Islanders agreed with the legislation it supported" is in my view inaccurate.

Mr. Leach admits the groups he supports have held "lobby days," while criticizing pro-Second Amendment groups of employing paid lobbyists. Moms Demand Action spends thousands to pay lobbyists to forward their agenda. They have lobbied Target, Starbucks, Chipotle, Chili's, Sonic and Jack in the Box, demanding that guns be banned from the establishments, often providing state and local organizations with inaccurate and sometimes misleading statistical information.

It's been proven over and over gun free zones do not work; mass shootings generally occur in places where firearms are banned such as malls and schools. The Aurora movie theater gunman chose the only gun-free theater among seven others within a 20-minute drive.

Mr. Leach admits federal law already prohibits gun ownership for those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence. How would a new state law help?

History proves there's an inherent risk to Jews when they begin to force others to submit to their legal, cultural or political authority. Rabbis and religious leaders have the right to voice their views to their congregants. However, many within the Jewish community believe in their constitutional right to protect themselves and their families.

Ron Stuart,
Warwick

Reading the Bible as written for our time



RABBI JEFFREY GOLDWASSER

We all know that the Hebrew Bible was written a long time ago. We assume that many of the Bible's teachings were intended for a different political and social reality than ours. Sometimes, therefore, we are tempted to dismiss biblical teachings we find difficult, or even offensive, because, we say, they were "written for a different time."

What we may not recognize though, is that the Hebrew Bible was very old already when the rabbis created the Judaism we know today. The rabbis who transformed a national cult of ritual sacrifices into a tradition of study, prayer and doing *mitzvot* were willing and able to accept the difficult parts of the Bible that must have seemed to them to be "written for a different time."

How? What did the rabbis do to make the Bible – even the parts written a thousand years before them – relevant to their time?

The rabbis began by assuming that the Hebrew Bible is a sacred text, a gift from God. Therefore, when parts of the Bible seemed to them to be out-of-step with the values and realities of their times, they assumed that there had to be a deeper meaning to be found through interpretation. Rather than simply reject the parts of the Bible we don't like, we can take a cue from the ancient rabbis and probe for meanings hidden beneath the surface.

This week's Torah portion (*Re'eh*), for example, includes a passage that might make us cringe:

> *You will destroy, completely destroy, all the places where the nations you must dispossess worshipped their gods, on high mountains, in the hills and under every shade tree. You shall tear down their altars, smash their pillars and posts, burn the images of their gods with fire, erase and eradicate their names from that place. (Deuteronomy 12:2-3)*

In the context of today's world, this passage sounds like a call for cultural extermination that reminds us of the Taliban destroying ancient Buddhist statues or the Islamic State's destruction of medieval mosques. That our own tradition might teach such behavior is distressing to us.

The ancient rabbis did not like it any better than we do. They were quick to point out that the Torah's laws concerning the destruction of foreign nations were no longer in effect even in their day because the specific nations slated for destruction in the Bible had long ceased to exist (B. *Berachot* 28a). But because the rabbis assumed that the Torah has something to teach every generation, they sought a deeper meaning.

In the section of the Talmud that deals with idolatry, the rabbis interpreted the doubling of the verb, "destroy, completely destroy," in the above passage. The Talmud states that we are commanded to destroy idolatry twice. The first part, the easy part, is to remove the physical presence of idolatry. The harder part is to wipe it from our way of thinking (B. *Avodah Zara* 45b-46a).

This is a teaching that we can take into our lives today. We may not see too many sacrificial altars dedicated to foreign gods in the world today, but idolatry does still exist. Any time we treat something that is not God as if it were a god – whether it is wealth, status, military might or intellectual prowess – we have committed idolatry. The commandment in this week's Torah portion to destroy places of idolatry is more than an anachronistic statement written "for a different time." It is a message to us to change the way we think, too.

Think about the things that you worship – things you treat as if they were as important as life itself. Commit yourself to put these things in their proper perspective. Ask yourself: What would it feel like to let go of your prized possessions? How would you see yourself differently if your self-worth was not measured by your status and social station? Would your life change for the better if you did not have the gadgets and gizmos that you depend upon? Isn't our attachment to such things really just a way of worshipping ourselves? Destroy them and then destroy them again – not with hammers and swords, but in the way we think.

When we consider the biblical text this way – finding personal meaning that transcends the literal and historic meaning of the text – we discover that the text was not written for "a different time." It was written for us. We learn that what is sacred about our tradition is not our blind obedience to the literal word. It is the tradition's ability to direct us toward happier, more fulfilling lives. That is the way the ancient rabbis read Torah. We can, too.

There is another lesson, too. When we reflect upon those who only see the literal text on the page – those whose fundamentalist faith insists that it is the only true religion – we realize what a small and self-defeating way it is to live with God. We could even say that such fundamentalism is itself a form of idolatry that treats the literal meaning of the text as a false god and ignores the deeper spiritual meaning.

What irony! Those who destroy ancient artifacts because they believe they are obeying a command against idolatry, are practicing an even greater form of idolatry. By worshipping a text they do not probe to understand, they have become the thing they detest. Is that not always the way of fundamentalism that only sees the surface and ignores the mystery and meaning below?

RABBI JEFFREY GOLDWASSER is the spiritual leader of Temple Sinai in Cranston. He writes the blog "Reb Jeff" at rebjeff.com from which this *D'var Torah* is reprinted.

CANDLE LIGHTING SCHEDULE

5776-5777 (2016–2017) Providence, Rhode Island

September, 2016		October, 2016		November, 2016	
2	6:58	2 Erev Rosh Hashanah	6:06	4	5:17
9	6:46	3 Rosh Hashanah	7:09	11	4:09
16	6:33	7	5:57	18	4:03
23	6:21	11 Yom Kippur	5:51	25	3:59
30	6:09	14	5:46		
		16 Erev Sukkot	5:43		
		17 Sukkot	6:49		
		21	5:35		
		23 Shemini Atzeret	5:32		
		24 Simcha Torah	6:38		

Daylight saving time ends Nov. 6. 2016

December, 2016		January, 2017		February, 2017	
1	3:56	6	4:11	3	4:45
9	3:56	13	4:19	10	4:54
16	3:57	20	4:27	17	5:03
23	4:00	27	4:36	24	5:11
30	4:05				

Daylight saving time resumes March 12, 2017

March, 2017		April, 2017		May, 2017	
3	5:20	7	6:59	5	7:30
10	5:28	10 Erev Passover	7:03	12	7:37
17	6:36	11 1st day of Pesach	8:04	19	7:44
24	6:44	14	7:07	26	7:52
31	6:51	16	7:09	30 Shavu'ot	7:54
		17 7th day of Pesach	8:18	31 Shavu'ot	9:09
		18 8th day of Pesach	8:13		
		21	7:14		
		28	7:22		

June, 2016		July, 2016		August, 2016	
2	7:56	7	8:04	4	7:41
9	8:01	14	8:00	11	7:32
16	8:04	21	7:55	18	7:23
23	8:06	28	7:49	25	7:12
30	8:06				

The above times are for Providence, RI.
Other areas around the region may vary by a few minutes.

Courtesy of Chabad Rhode Island

Annual 'Evening with Bestselling Authors' celebrates 8th year

New York Times bestselling authors Wally Lamb ("I'll Take You There"), Alexander Chee ("The Queen Of The Night") and bestselling author Ellen Herrick ("The Sparrow Sisters") join Robin Kall, host of Reading With Robin, on Wednesday, Oct. 5, for what has become an annual tradition. This is not a book club but an evening about books. It benefits ACS Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.

Kall has in the past welcomed authors such as: Tom Perrotta, Elizabeth Berg, Chris Bohjalian, Jane Green, Elin Hilderbrand, Ann Hood and Jenna Blum. The authors are generously participating in this benefit event.

Registration starts at 6:30 p.m. with the program at 7. Tickets are $40 and include light bites, one drink and the show. Books will be for sale with an opportunity after the program to have the authors sign and personalize.

The event takes place at Ocean State Theater Company, 1245 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick.

For more information email Robin Kall: robin@readingwithrobin.com www.readingwithrobin.com.

Go to http://bit.ly/28W4T6J to purchase tickets.

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Candle Lighting Times

Greater Rhode Island

September 2	**6:58**
September 9	**6:46**
September 16	**6:33**
September 23	**6:21**



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.

Sunday | September 4

Project Shoresh Partners in Torah Night. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Center for Jewish Studies, 671 East Ave., Pawtucket. Come join us for a 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. For more information, contact Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or 401-429-8244.

Wednesday | September 7

West Bay Havurah Sunset Stroll at Rocky Point. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Rocky Point State Park, 130 Rocky Point Ave., Warwick. Enjoy an easy 2-mile stroll on the grounds of the old Rocky Point Amusement Park, and catch the spectacular sunset during these waning days of summer. Bring water and bug spray. If interested, please contact Ellen Gourse at 401-921-3309.

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

Thursday | September 8

Kroll Conference. 5:30 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Dr. Ronit Ziv-Krieger will give a presentation on Project-Based Learning. A light Kosher supper will be served. For more information, contact Larry Katz at 401-421-4111, ext. 179, or lkatz@JewishAllianceRI.org.

Friday | September 9

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

Temple Beth-El Installation Shabbat Service. 7-9 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Festive gathering to install newly elected officers and trustees of Congregation Sons of Israel and David, Temple Beth-El. For more information, contact temple-beth-el.org or 401-331-6070.

Sunday | September 11

Project Shoresh Partners in Torah Night. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Center for Jewish Studies, 671 East Ave., Pawtucket. Come join us for a 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. For more information, contact Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or 401-429-8244.

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

Monday | September 12

Project Shoresh Growing from Within with Janice Kaidan, M.Ed., CYT. 7:30-8:45 p.m. Rochambeau Library, 708 Hope St., Providence. An evening of yoga and introspection, with ladies from throughout the community, sets the tone for the holiday season. Free! For more information, contact Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or 401-429-8244.

Wednesday | September 14

West Bay Havurah at R.I. Resource Recovery Corporation. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Central Landfill, 65 Shun Pike, Johnston. Visit the dump. Free, narrated and guided 1.5-hour bus tour will take you through the 1,040-acre property as you learn of the work being done here to keep R.I. and the environment clean. Take a tour of the Materials Recycling Facility, and observe the sorting and separating of household waste as the RIRRC recovers and recycles material. Tour guide will explain the program and will allow time for questions and answers. Next, board the bus again for the 250-foot ascent to the landfill's high point, which has a footprint of 270 acres. See Providence, the Fall River landfill, the Jamestown bridge and the Newport bridge as you learn about composting and the various issues the landfill faces. Access is off Rt. 295, exit 5. Go up the road one-half mile, and tell the guard at the gate you are here for the MaxBus tour. Follow signs to the parking area. Limited to 10 people. Contact Mark Sweberg at 401-248-5010 to register. Carpooling highly encouraged.

Friday | September 16

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

Temple Sinai New Member Shabbat. 7:30 p.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Temple Sinai congregants will enjoy a special service that will be part of an open house for new members. Additionally, Rabbi Goldwasser and Cantor Johnson will bless the new Board of Trustees. Prospective members who join after Aug. 1 can delay paying dues until Jan. 1, 2017, and still receive tickets for the High Holy Days. They will have to pay tuition for their children who attend the religious school. There will be a special Oneg Shabbat following services during which new members can meet the rabbi, cantor and members of the board of trustees. For more information, contact Ann Messier at a.messier@cox.net or 401-225-2661.

Saturday | September 17

Teen & Tween Cake Wars. 6-8 p.m. Dwares JCC. Roll up your sleeves and get ready for this fun and competitive cake-decorating event. Work in teams to create the best cake design, to be scored by a panel of guest judges. Prizes will be awarded to the winners. Cost: $5 with 2 non-perishable Kosher food items or $8. Includes: culinary activities, snacks and drinks. Food items will be donated to The Louis & Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry. Tweens and teens will learn how they can have a greater impact locally by donating food and advocating for those living in poverty. Sponsored by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, Dwares JCC, BBYO New England Region and BBYO Connect. RSVPs: Please register by 5 p.m. Sept. 15, to Seth at sfinkle@jewishallianceri.org or Samantha at swalsh@BBYO.org.

Temple Torat Yisrael Presents...Stand Up Comedy Night. 8 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. This event will feature Steve Donovan with Amy Pontes and Corey Manning. One great night; three great comics! Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. Price: Ticket alone $20 | Ticket plus two beverages $30. For more information or to RSVP, call Temple Torat Yisrael at 401-885-6600.

Sunday | September 18

Jewish Alliance Super Sunday. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Dwares JCC. A super-sized day of philanthropy and fun. Join friends and family at Super Sunday, a chance to raise money to support, inspire and care for Jewish Rhode Island and beyond. For more information or to volunteer, contact Michele Gallagher at 401-421-4111, ext. 165, or mgallagher@jewishallianceri.org.

Torat Yisrael Men's Club Breakfast with Guest Democratic and Republican Speakers. 9-11 a.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Guest Speakers Joseph Paolino and Richard Weiner, Democrats, and Rebecca Schiff and David Talan, Republicans. Come for breakfast at 9 a.m. or come at 9:30 a.m. to listen to the speakers. Cost for breakfast: $10 per person. RSVP to the Torat Yisrael office at 401-885-6600 by Sept. 13. For more information, contact Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Project Shoresh Partners in Torah Night. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Center for Jewish Studies, 671 East Ave., Pawtucket. Come join us for a 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. For more information, contact Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or 401-429-8244.

Friday | September 23

PJ Library Story Time: Rosh Hashanah. 10-11 a.m. Dwares JCC. Hear stories, play games and make new friends. We will read various PJ Library books and sing songs about different Jewish holidays or value themes throughout the year. Children will also be able to make a craft. All children ages 5 and under are welcome. No cost. For more information, contact Ruth Horton at rhorton@jewishallianceri.org.

Saturday | September 24

2016 National Israeli-American Conference. 8 p.m.-12 a.m. Marriot Marquis, 901 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. The National Israeli-American Conference is the foremost annual gathering of the Israeli-American community. An inspired, engaging three-day journey that delves into the most critical issues facing the Israeli-American and Jewish communities. Participants examine questions surrounding Israeli and Jewish identity and hear from world-renowned experts about the most pressing issues in global affairs. They explore cutting-edge educational opportunities for our children; network with innovators at the center of politics, culture and business; and work to cultivate the leadership and growth of the Israeli-American community. For more information, please contact Shely Medved at registration@israeliamerican.org.

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

Selichot Services at Temple Sinai. 9-11:30 p.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. The Temple Sinai brotherhood will sponsor a breakfast in the social hall of the temple prior to the beginning of Selichot services. Breakfast will be served at 9 p.m., and services will begin at 10 p.m. Shireinu, the community chorus of Temple Sinai, will participate in the services with Rabbi Goldwasser and Cantor Johnson. For more information, contact Ann Messier at a.messier@cox.net or 401-225-2661.

Sunday | September 25

Apples & Honey. 4 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Join us for apples and honey as we celebrate Rosh Hashanah, meet our honey-bearing bees, plant a tree, sing and dance. All families are welcome! For more information, contact Ruth Horton at rhorton@jewishallianceri.org. or 401-421-4111, ext. 117. Sponsored by PJ Library, Temple Torat Yisrael and the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

Project Shoresh Annual Celebration Reception. 7-9 p.m. Glenn and Darcy Weiner Center, Brown-RISD Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence. Project Shoresh of RI invites you to a celebration reception recognizing the "Heroes of Partners in Torah Night." There will be a special, inspiring and entertaining presenter, as well as amazing food. Come and enjoy an evening of inspiration and unity as we usher in the New Year. For more information, contact Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or 401-429-8244.

Wednesday | September 28

Project Shoresh Simanim. 7:30 p.m. Private home on East Side of Providence. Create and taste some of the symbolic foods of Rosh Hashanah with Miriam Karp. A relaxing evening of cooking and learning for women. $5 or free if you bring a friend. For questions or to RSVP, contact Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or call 401-429-8244.

Help us report on the Jewish community

Do you like to write and would you like to join a small, dedicated publishing team?

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Topics can range from weddings to bar mitzvahs; from gardening to parenting; and from cooking to book reviews. Experience, training or a background in writing or journalism is strongly preferred. Ability to take photos (or video) is plus as is web and social media experience. Send resume, ideas and writing samples to editor@jewishallianceri.org

Sephardic-inspired sangria – two ways

BY SAMANTHA FERRARO

(The Nosher via JTA) – Aromatic flavors of rose and orange blossom are still strong reminders of my childhood.

I didn't eat like the "other kids" on the block. I grew up with exotic Sephardic dishes of *fasulye* (Turkish green beans) and *fideo* (a Sephardic pasta dish). I was introduced to smoked fish before I could walk and learned to roll grape leaves as soon as I could sit up. Perfumed sweets from the Mediterranean bakery down the street were normal dessert fare in our home, and we liked it that way.

I will never forget my first bite of rose water cookies, and since then I have been hooked on the unique flavor. Ever since those cookies of my childhood, I always make sure to have a bottle of rose water and orange blossom water in the fridge for adding to special dishes when possible. Or, in this case, for sangria.

A note about both rose water and orange blossom: A little bit truly goes a long way, so don't add too much. But it does provide a lovely, subtle note that makes those glasses go down easily.

Another note about sangria in general: You can really use any fruit you like, depending on your tastes, what's in season or what happens to be in the freezer. Whatever fruit you choose, cheers to summer with a glass of floral sangria.



White Peach Sangria with Orange Blossom Water

Ingredients

1 large peach, pitted for peach puree (or use 1/2 cup store-bought peach puree)

1 large peach, pitted and sliced

2 tablespoons light rum

1/2 cup sugar (to make simple syrup)

2 teaspoons orange blossom water

1 bottle (750ml) white wine (I used Pinot Grigio)

Sparkling water or sparkling wine for serving

Directions

To make fresh peach puree, roughly chop 1 peach and add it to a blender or food processor with a splash of water (about 2 tablespoons) and pulse until smooth. Pour into airtight container until ready to use.

Next, make your simple syrup. Combine 1/2 cup sugar and 1/2 cup water in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Turn down the heat and simmer for a few minutes, until the sugar is dissolved. Take off the heat and let cool. You'll only need 1/4 cup for this recipe, so store the rest in a jar in the refrigerator for up to 1 month.

For the sangria, in a tall pitcher, add 1/2 cup of the peach puree, sliced peach, rum, 1/4 cup simple syrup, orange blossom water and white wine. Use a long handled spoon to stir everything together and allow to sit in the refrigerator for at least 4 hours.

When ready to serve, pour into glasses and top with either sparkling wine or sparkling water (I used La Croix sparkling water).

Strawberry Rosé Sangria

Ingredients

1 cup frozen strawberries (to make 1/2 cup strawberry puree)

1 cup fresh strawberries, left whole or cut in half

1 red plum, pitted and sliced

2 tablespoons light rum

1/2 cup sugar (to make simple syrup)

2 teaspoons rose water

1 bottle (750ml) Rosé wine

Sparkling water or sparkling wine for serving

Directions

To a blender or food processor, add the frozen strawberries and about 2 tablespoons water and blend until smooth. Pour into airtight container until ready to use.

Next, make your simple syrup. Combine 1/2 cup sugar and 1/2 cup water in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Turn down the heat and simmer for a few minutes, until the sugar is dissolved. Take off the heat and let cool. You'll only need 1/4 cup for this recipe, so store the rest in a jar in the refrigerator for up to 1 month.

In a tall pitcher, add 1/2 cup of the strawberry puree, 1/4 cup of simple syrup, fresh strawberries, plum, rum, rose water and rosé wine. Use a long handled spoon to stir everything together and allow to sit in the refrigerator for at least 4 hours so flavors can blend.

When ready to serve, pour into glasses and top with either sparkling water or sparkling wine.

SAMANTHA FERRARO is the food blogger and photographer for The Little Ferraro Kitchen. Samantha comes from a diverse background and is originally from Brooklyn, New York, until she turned to the island life and moved to Hawaii. Now Samantha blogs in Southern California about world cuisine recipes made easy with her Italian husband and their dog Hula. When she's not blogging or making a mess in the kitchen, you can find her traveling the world for recipe inspiration. For more world cuisine recipes, follow Samantha at littleferrarokitchen.com

The Nosher food blog offers a dazzling array of new and classic Jewish recipes and food news, from Europe to Yemen, from challah to shakshuka and beyond. Check it out at TheNosher.com.

Boston's main kosher butcher, closed by fire, reopens in temporary digs

BOSTON (JTA) – Six weeks after a fire shuttered Boston's main kosher supermarket, The Butcherie is now operating on a limited basis from a nearby Brookline location.

Selectmen in Brookline, a suburb of Boston, voted last week to give The Butcherie's owners emergency permission to operate temporarily from the former Rubin's Deli through the end of September. Rubin's, the city's only kosher delicatessen, closed on Aug. 5 after 90 years in business, surprising the area's Jewish community and others throughout greater Boston.

The Butcherie's owners, who originally hoped repairs would be complete within one month of the fire, now expect to reopen in the store's original location by Sept. 6, nearly a month before the start of the High Holidays.

Since the two-alarm fire forced the store to close on July 12, a limited number of The Butcherie's kosher products were available at two kosher businesses a few doors down from the grocery.



No one was injured in the blaze, which was quickly extinguished. The fire caused between $400,000 and $500,000 in damages – mostly from smoke contamination of perishable items

On The Butcherie's Facebook page, owners Josh, Gili and Walter Gelerman acknowledged the community's support.

"Many thanks to Cafe Eilat and [Catering By] Andrew's for opening your doors to us and helping in this trying moment and a world of gratitude to our dear customers for supporting us as well," they wrote.

The Butcherie has operated since 1972.

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JV

Pizza and prayers: Shabbat Shaboom brings youngest learners to Temple Sinai

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

Temple Sinai is ushering in Shabbat with a boom. This boom, specifically, is Shabbat Shaboom.

Shabbat Shaboom is the Cranston temple's monthly program to teach Jewish youngsters and their families Shabbat customs and rituals in a fun, relaxed way.

According to Sinai's Rabbi Jeffrey Goldwasser, the program was designed as a way for Jewish children, from babies through second graders, to become involved in the synagogue before they start religious school in third grade.

"We want to get our young Jewish families with Jewish children into the synagogue as early as possible so that even before they reach third grade, they feel a sense of belonging – that the Jewish practices are theirs," Goldwasser explains.

Activities include singing, dancing, arts and crafts, and storytelling by the rabbi and others. Dinner includes the blessings over candles, challah, grape juice, and, often, kid-friendly pizza.

"Kids love lighting Shabbat candles and eating challah on Friday night. If you tell them it's a tradition – a part of who they are – they feel really excited," the rabbi says. "A lot of parents don't feel competent to give that experience [at home]."





PHOTOS | TEMPLE SINAI

Children participate in a Purim activity last year at Temple Sinai.

According to Amber Caulkins, who plays a key role in coordinating Shabbat Shaboom, the program has been a learning experience for not only the kids, but often for their parents, too.

"The rabbi really does a great job of making kids feel welcome and that the synagogue is for them. Doing things like bringing out the Torah for kids to look at and ask questions about is really great. It also creates an environment where parents can learn and ask questions," she says.

Goldwasser acknowledged that many parents also learn from Shabbat Shaboom and said it is particularly helpful for interfaith families, who are welcome and encouraged to attend with their children. Shabbat Shaboom is also a chance for parents to connect with other adults in the Jewish community.

"The families hang around; the kids play together and the parents get to know each other. They chat …. It's a nice time for people to connect to the Jewish community," he says.

As Shabbat Shaboom approaches its one-year anniversary this fall, Goldwasser and Caulkins have some new ideas for the program.

"I think in the coming year we will continue to learn about what makes the program attractive to families and how we can evolve to meet those needs," says Caulkins, whose role includes providing feedback to Goldwasser about what families would like to see in Shabbat Shaboom.

Goldwasser says this fall they will experiment with new times for Shabbat Shaboom to accommodate families that cannot make the program's usual 5 p.m. start time, and with incorporating more arts and crafts activities. Sinai has also partnered with the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island to ensure that PJ Library materials, such as CDs and books for children, are included in the program in its second year.

"There's nothing deep about it – no lessons on how to do anything," Goldwasser says, explaining that the program is meant to be an enjoyable entry path into practicing Judaism. "It's more show than tell."

To date, eight or nine families have participated in Shabbat Shaboom, Goldwasser says. Participation is open to all families with Jewish children, not just Sinai's members. There is no admission fee.

The next Shabbat Shaboom will be on Sept. 9 at 6 p.m. Shabbat Shaboom will also meet on the High Holy Days with events for Rosh Hashanah on Monday, Oct. 3, at 2 p.m., and for Yom Kippur on Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 2 p.m.

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



Camp JORI dedicates Charles Samdperil Boathouse

SOUTH KINGSTOWN – Camp JORI, recently dedicated its newest building, the Charles Samdperil Boathouse. Camp JORI is an overnight camp located on 72 acres surrounded by Nature Conservancy-protected land on Worden's Pond, the largest in Rhode Island.

The boathouse contains a large storage area for boating and fishing equipment, including kayaks, canoes and sailing gear. The boathouse also includes restroom facilities plus housing for adult staff. It is integral to JORI's recent waterfront development, which includes a large pavilion (named in memory of Richard Strauss), extension of the dock facilities to accommodate additional boats and an area specifically for fishing, and improved drainage to enhance the water quality of the lake. Because of its strong commitment to the environment, the camp received funding from the Champlin, Bafflin and other foundations that made these improvements possible.

At the dedication, past president Robert Stolzman introduced and acknowledged the many board members and donors who were in attendance that evening. Stolzman spoke of the importance of the waterfront project not only to the ecosystem of Worden's Pond but to the future of the camp as well. "This marks a great improvement to the programming we offer the children as well as what JORI offers the community in our off-season." The pavilion and boathouse expand the camp's ability to offer more options for holding weddings, family and community events, and Shabbaton.



From left to right: Front row – Samantha Rosenfield, Debra Samdperil, Karyn Rosenfield, Terry Schuster, Ruth Samdperil, Michael Schuster, David Samdperil. Back row – Jay Rosenfield and Skyler Lavalla.

Charles Samdperil's wife, Ruth, and Terry Schuster, one of his four children, spoke lovingly of their husband and father.

Mrs. Samdperil noted, "It makes me so proud and happy to see my husband's name on this boathouse. He would have loved it!"

Terry Schuster stated "Our father loved his family, loved his friends, loved his community, loved Judaism, loved children and loved to give back to his community. He was a firm believer in *tikkun olam* – repairing the world and making it a better place."

> **"Our father loved his family, loved his friends, loved his community, loved Judaism, loved children and loved to give back to the community."**

She expanded on Charles's commitment to that philosophy by noting, "He was very connected to Camp JORI … he served on committees around the purchase and move to this current site – a beautiful summer camp with amazing facilities which also offer many opportunities for year-round use as well."

The completion of the waterfront project marks the end of Phase Two of construction at JORI.

Also included in the Phase Two construction is the opening of a new staff housing building that allows for more adult and married staff to be at camp, enabling enhanced camper programming. All this is in addition to last summer's opening of two new camper residences and a new town square with a fire pit. These improvements were made possible by funding from private donors and local and national foundations.

Camp JORI is a co-ed overnight camp established in 1937. It operates four major programs. These include a four week overnight camping experience for children ages 7-13, a leadership program for young teens ages 14-15, and a small day camp program for children ages 5-6 and those not yet ready for an overnight experience (up to age 10).

The inclusion program, Reaching Up, which launched in 2006, provides a highly structured overnight camping experience for children with special needs. Camp JORI also offers a month long experience in Israel for campers who have completed the leadership program and may return to camp for an additional two-week Counselor-in-Training experience.

– Submitted by Camp JORI

Kohelet Foundation launches Kohelet prize

NARBERTH, PA – The Kohelet Foundation announced today the inaugural year of its Kohelet Prize. The unrestricted $36,000 prize will be awarded to educators or teams of educators, who currently work in Jewish day schools and whose work skillfully demonstrates a progressive approach to education in the following six categories:

- Interdisciplinary Integration
- Real-World Learning
- Learning Environment
- Differentiated Instruction
- Development of Critical and/or Creative Thinking
- Risk Taking and Failure

"We know there are creative and highly effective teachers doing this work in the field now. We want to inspire them to share what they know about developing the minds and hearts of their students," said Holly Cohen, Kohelet Foundation's executive director.

"The first five categories are critical to excellent education. By honing in on these, we hope to surface work that demonstrates the elements that matter most in the classroom," said Rabbi Dr. Gil Perl, the Kohelet Foundation chief academic officer.

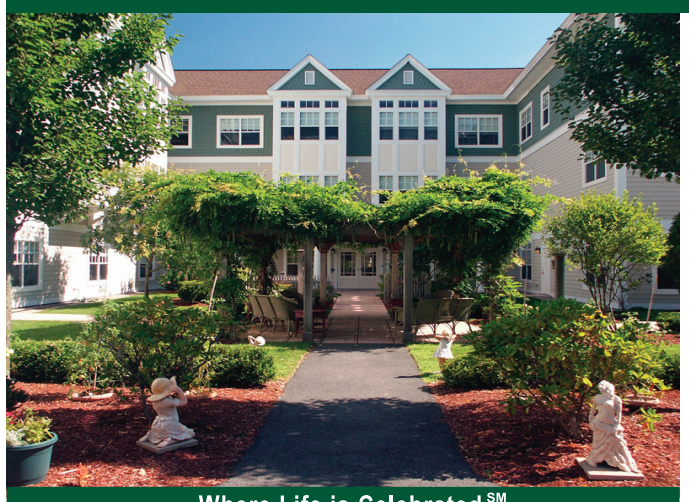
In explaining the sixth category, Perl noted, "In schools, failures are too often seen as an endpoint, not as a crucial step toward success. To foster a growth mindset in students, we have to begin by fostering it in our teachers."

To submit an entry, educators will share their work by uploading it directly to the Kohelet Prize website at www.koheletprize.org, starting on Sept. 29 until 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 29. A panel of judges in the fields of education, psychology and neuroscience will select the winning entries. The Kohelet Prizes will be awarded in early 2017.

To promote an open source culture within the field, the Kohelet Foundation plans to create a searchable database of all entries. The database will be accessible after the close of submissions via the Kohelet Prize website.

For more information, visit: www.koheletprize.org.

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Project Based Learning is focus of Kroll Educators Conference

BY LAWRENCE KATZ

Project Based Learning (PBL) is the theme of the Elaine and Sanford Kroll Educators Conference, to be presented by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island at Temple Beth-El, in Providence, on Thursday evening, Sept. 8.

A light Kosher supper will be served at 5:30 to those who pre-register at their schools. The program begins at 6.

The presenter will be Ronit Ziv-Kreger of Sharon, Massachusetts. Ziv-Kreger combines a passion for Jewish learning and life with her MIT training in management science to help institutions navigate systemic changes and adapt pedagogies to manifest their vision. She serves as a consultant to Combined Jewish Philanthropies' initiative to reinvent supplementary education in the Boston area, and as designer and trainer for Hebrew College's congregational PBL professional development.



Ronit Ziv-Kreger

Ziv-Kreger has supported dozens of schools both in Israel and the Boston area since 1997 with successful implementation of innovative pedagogies such as Project Based Learning and Torah Godly Play. She is a graduate of the Pardes Educators Program and received her Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management.

According to the Buck Institute for Education, "In Project Based Learning (PBL), students go through an extended process of inquiry in response to a complex question, problem, or challenge. While allowing for some degree of student 'voice and choice,' rigorous projects are carefully planned, managed, and assessed to help students learn key academic content, practice 21st century skills (such as collaboration, communication & critical thinking), and create high-quality, authentic products & presentations ….

"Students gain a deeper understanding of the concepts and standards at the heart of a project. Projects also build vital workplace skills and lifelong habits of learning.... PBL can motivate students who might otherwise find school boring or meaningless."

Ziv-Kreger will be teaching the basics of PBL at the Kroll Educators Conference, and applying it to the Jewish classroom.

Deeply aware of the connection between Jewish education and Jewish continuity, Elaine and Sanford Kroll established an endowment fund at the Bureau of Jewish Education to provide an annual teachers' conference.

Sanford Kroll, a former president of the bureau, observed firsthand the need for professionalism in the Jewish educator. He instituted programs to reward teacher creativity and to encourage educational experimentation. An honorary member of the bureau's board, Elaine Kroll demonstrated her commitment to Jewish life in Rhode Island through her active involvement in many Jewish communal agencies.

The Jewish Alliance recognizes and pays tribute to Elaine Kroll and Sanford Kroll for their commitment to Jewish education, for their generosity, and for making this conference possible.

For more information about this program, please contact him at 401-421-4111 or lkatz@jewishallianceri.org.

LAWRENCE KATZ is director of Jewish Life and Learning at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

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Marcia Szymanski: Making the world a safer place

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

Marcia Szymanski, of Mansfield, Massachusetts, is executive director of the Attleboro-based New Hope, which is a perfect name to describe her transition from the business world to the world of nonprofits.

When Szymanski was first starting out, there was nothing in her career goals that hinted she would some day run a nonprofit organization that strives to end domestic and sexual violence and abuse. Szymanski's early goal was to make a lot of money in business.

After completing some courses toward a business degree at the University of New Orleans, in her hometown, she transferred to John Carroll University, in Cleveland, where she studied part-time while working at General Electric.

Szymanski had great success at GE, so she left school. Soon, she was transferred to a GE branch in Newton, Massachusetts. But when the company closed that branch, Szymanski was burdened with the duty of laying off her co-workers. This experience, she says, sparked a change in her.

"It was not easy to tell these people in their mid-40s and mid-50s that they were going to be out of jobs. It really soured the experience," she says. "I decided I couldn't work in that environment anymore."

Szymanski went on to complete a bachelor's degree in religious studies and theology at Emmanuel College, in Boston, and then a master's in social work at Boston University. The focus of the master's, she says, was more on community organizing and nonprofit management than on clinical social work.

After school, she managed a number of nonprofit projects and organizations, including a few years in community organizing and eight years at a family planning clinic. From there, she went to Health Imperatives, in Brockton, Massachusetts, to work on ending domestic abuse and sexual violence. While Szymanski says all of this work



Marcia Szymanski

struck a chord with her in terms of giving back, she found her work at Health Imperatives particularly meaningful.

"I felt it was something that really was making a positive difference in people's lives. There was something about this kind of work that spoke to me in a deeper way," she says.

Szymanski was with Health Imperatives for 18 years, until her position was eliminated. She then took the position of interim executive director at New Hope, which became permanent in March of 2015.

Now, between overseeing four locations and a staff of about 60 employees, and recruiting donors, Szymanski's days are packed. But she still finds time to attend services at Congregation Agudas Achim, in Attleboro. And the driving force to improve the world remains strong in her.

"This whole belief in social justice. That for me has been a really defining piece of my life," says Szymanski, who also says that experiencing racial segregation at a young age had an impact on her motivation. "To make the world a better place has been driving me throughout my life."

While Szymanski notes that domestic and sexual abuse occurs across all demographics, New Hope is currently exploring the correlation between such abuse and factors such as homophobia, transphobia, racism and poverty. Addressing these connections, she says, is part of the organization's strategic plan moving forward.

"Our work is really about anti-oppression works," she says.

Szymanski says she's come full circle from her early goal of making money in the business world.

"I came to the realization that all those material things aren't really important," she says.

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

Jewish businesswomen role models, tips for success

BY PATRICIA RASKIN

Touro University Worldwide, at tuw.edu, has profiled seven famous Jewish businesswomen. These women have founded or worked on several of the world's largest brands.

Gabe Duverge, author of the article, states, "These pioneers have blazed an enterprising trail for countless Jewish women …their products range from cosmetics and fashion to television."

Among these women are Estee Lauder, founder and namesake of one of the world's largest cosmetics companies; Diane Von Furstenberg, Belgian Jewish fashion designer; Sheryl Sandberg, CEO of Facebook; and Mindy Grossman, CEO of Home Shopping Network.

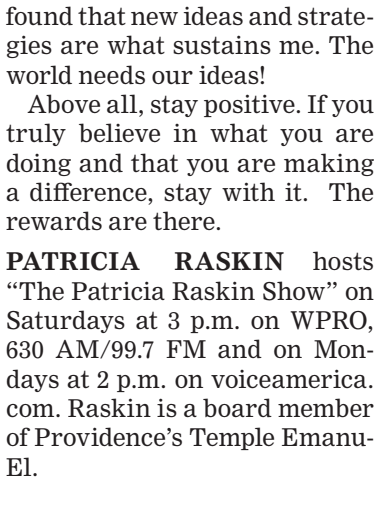
These are creative, competent, talented and brilliant women with the grit, grace, determination, vision and values to make it happen.

I restarted my business, Raskin Resources Productions, Inc., in Rhode Island in 2008, after returning to my New England roots from the coast of North Carolina, where I had lived and worked for 12 years. I came back at the height of the Great Recession, but I was determined to bring my vision here and make it work. In my ninth year now, I have learned some things that have helped me sustain and grow my business.

Here is my top five list for making your business a success:

Get professional advice. We all have out-of-the-box ideas, concepts and strategies, and we usually feel quite passionate about them. This is a plus, a gift. But our passion, drive and creativity are not always enough for a successful bottom line. Find a business coach or consultant who loves your ideas and stands behind you, but gives very practical advice and establishes benchmarks and clear goals.

Use your money as a tool. Money is the engine here and you'll need it at all stages of your business, from concept to marketing. Don't be frugal on promotion, but use your funds



Patricia Raskin

wisely. There are no guarantees, but choose vehicles that give you the most exposure and leverage.

Network, network, network. Be smart about networking. Cold calls may work for some, but the best way to create new business is with face-to-face meetings at networking events or through personal referrals and testimonials. I have built my business on networking.

Create a support network. Being in business has its highs and lows, and you must be able to weather the lows, so cultivate professional friends you can talk to. Make that phone call when you feel down. Get a pep talk … then give yourself a pep talk. Look at what you have achieved so far, and don't dismiss it, especially on a bad day.

Keep thinking outside the box. Keep the ideas coming. Creativity is the driving force behind the passion. Anyone who is in business is a type of artist, and artists create. I have found that new ideas and strategies are what sustains me. The world needs our ideas!

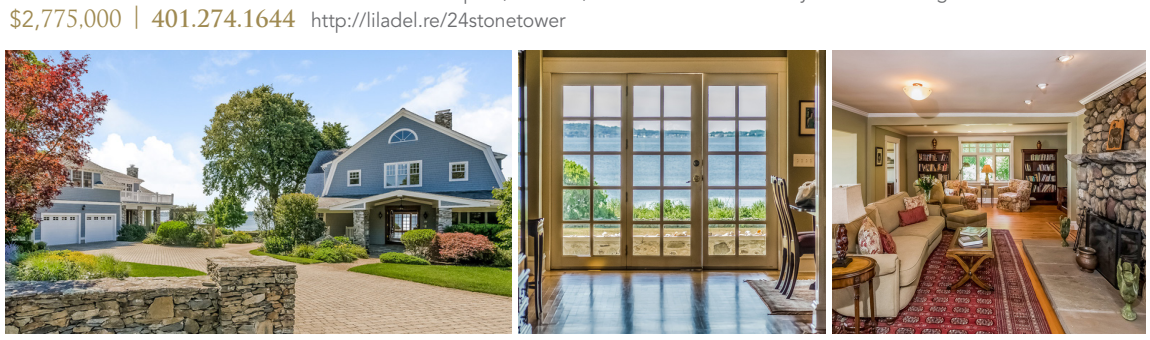
Above all, stay positive. If you truly believe in what you are doing and that you are making a difference, stay with it. The rewards are there.

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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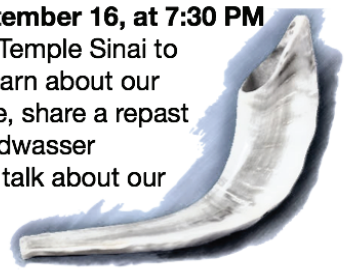


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OpenHouse

Please join us on **Friday, September 16, at 7:30 PM** for an Open House service at Temple Sinai to meet our new cantor and to learn about our congregation. After the service, share a repast at our Oneg as Rabbi Jeff Goldwasser and Cantor Deborah Johnson talk about our vision of a vibrant, inspiring and supportive congregation that brings our tradition alive.



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Sue Benzuly – and her shop – is invested in a healthier you

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN



Sue Benzuly

Providence finally has a shop that is dedicated to promoting health and wellness through body and home-care products. And who better to run such an enterprise than a nurse?

With an understanding of both the delicacy and vitality of skin, and knowledge of pharmaceuticals, Sue Benzuly, of Providence, had the tools to make the career change of her dreams. After more than a decade in pediatric nursing at Rhode Island Hospital and per diem nursing roles, she made the move to small business owner with the opening of Evolve Apothecary and Spa, at 769A Hope St., in November 2015.

Benzuly, a member of Providence's Temple Beth-El, says over the years she had become interested in "how we take care of ourselves and the products we use … what we eat, how we care for the environment." At Evolve, she says, "In some ways, I feel like I'm doing more wellness here than I'd ever done before."

Some 90 percent of the products sold at Evolve are vegan, says Benzuly, and many are locally sourced. The shop sells body, hair and home-care products, makeup, coffee, tea, candles, and other items. One product is a candle that melts into a body lotion. Another is a hand balm developed by rock climbers, who are notorious for having dry skin. Evolve, which is co-owned by Yolande Muoio, another registered nurse, also offers facials and waxing.

In keeping with its name, Evolve will soon be changing by adding massage services in a small room attached to its fragrant storefront.

Benzuly says that while conventional Western medicine has helped many people, her focus at Evolve is to provide an alternative method of healing.

"We have a lot of ways that we can really help people, but we also have to expect that Western medicine will not solve all of our medical problems," she says. "We have a certain responsibility for our own wellness – we can do that by how we eat and how we take care of ourselves.

"We need to look responsibly at the medical industry as a whole and go back to our roots."

Another way that Benzuly is helping people is simply by opening a business. She has found creating jobs and building an "exceptional team" one of the most fulfilling aspects of her new career.

"We've already created jobs and will build more, and that's very cool," she says

"Our guiding principle is that [Evolve is] owned by RNs, and we care deeply about the ingredients we bring into the store," says Benzuly. "We owe it to ourselves and to our children to be mindful of what we're using."

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

There is something very special about the High Holy Days

It's a time for you to nourish your Jewish identity - to connect to the community and feel welcome.
The Jewish Alliance and area synagogues are partnering again this year to open their doors for the High Holy Days.

Tickets are now available for the following High Holy Days:

Erev Rosh Hashanah, *October 2*
First day of Rosh Hashanah, *October 3*
Second day of Rosh Hashanah, *October 4*
Erev Yom Kippur, *October 11*
Yom Kippur, *October 12*

Who is eligible?

- New community members
- Community members currently unaffiliated with a synagogue who have not yet been affiliated with the synagogue they wish to attend for four or more years
- Community members who have never participated in this program

Tickets will be available through September 28.
For more information call the AccessJewishRI.org warm-line and speak with one of our Community Concierges at 401.421.4111 ext. 411, or email them at concierge@jewishallianceri.org.

Please note: This offer is valid for family members residing at the same address. Individuals age 25 and older must apply for their own tickets.

Participating Congregations:

Congregation Agudas Achim, *Attleboro*
Congregation Beth David, *Narragansett*
Congregation Beth Sholom, *Providence*
Congregation B'nai Israel, *Woonsocket*
Congregation Sha'arei Tefilla, *Providence*
Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh, *Providence*
Congregation Sons of Jacob, *Providence*
Newport Havurah*
Temple Am David, *Warwick*
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Temple Torat Yisrael, *East Greenwich*
Touro Synagogue, *Newport*
United Brothers, *Bristol*
West Bay Community Jewish Center, *Warwick*

*Newport Havurah High Holy Day services are open to everyone.
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שנה טובה

Jewish Alliance
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

When retirement becomes a business

With people living longer, some are finding retirement doesn't fit

BY FRAN OSTENDORF
fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org

Sandy Ross, of Greenville, is supposed to be retired. But that didn't work out. Instead, her retirement took a Kosher turn. Now she can't imagine retiring again any time soon.

"I love what I do," said Ross, who always seems to be smiling. "I'm having a wonderful time."

Her effervescent personality is well suited to her latest job in the service industry, as a partner in Catering to Tradition, of Providence, a Kosher caterer.

Ross loves to cook. She says she's always "cooked gourmet at home." But she never expected to be involved in food service professionally. Instead, her career involved a lot of other things. A Rhode Island native, she grew up in Providence, raised a son and daughter, did some office work, and had a number of jobs in sales, including running an embroidery store, where she sold machines as well as embroidered goods. She also went "on the road" to sell.

Her husband of 51 years, Allen, traveled on business, too. But when his traveling decreased, Ross says she decided she didn't want to travel anymore.

"It was about 2003," she said. "It made sense. I retired."

But Ross is definitely not one to sit on the couch and, well, embroider. So, she decided to try something new, and applied for a party planning job at the Smithfield Elks Lodge. She got the job.

It was in that job that she met Andrew Esposito, owner of Local Hero Deli and Catering, in Pawtucket. He became one of three vendors she worked with for the parties at the lodge. "Whenever I used him, there was no hassle," she said. His



Sandy Ross

food was delicious and he delivered what he promised, she said.

When Esposito asked for Ross's help in exploring the Kosher catering business, her next career move was born.

"I wonder what I'd do if I retired ... As long as it's fun, I'm going to keep working."

Soon she was offering advice, such as to try Kosher-style first.

It was fun. Challenging. Helpful. And she knew what to do.

Ross and Esposito began working together at Local Hero, catering Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and other functions.

In 2014, Catering to Tradition started working out of the kitchen of Congregation Beth Shalom, in Providence, under the supervision of Rabbi Barry Dolinger. In June 2016, they bought Divine Providence Catering, of Providence, owned by Daren Bulley, another Kosher caterer. They are still at Beth Shalom, where they've upgraded and enlarged the kitchen and retrained their catering staff. They are now under the supervision of Rhode Island Kosher (formerly the Vaad Hakashrut of Rhode Island).

Ross is the planner, Esposito is the chef. "I do all the planning," she said. "I talk to the customer. I know what Andrew does and doesn't want to cook." She's able to guide the customers toward the perfect party menu, and make it look beautiful.

"You have to listen to what people want," she said.

And while she's cooked for years, she says she only steps in to help in the kitchen when necessary.

Ross offers this advice to women who want to begin their own businesses: "Pick something you love and have fun with it."

Does she think about retirement at all?

"I wonder what I'd do if I retired," she said. "Half my friends think I'm out of my mind for doing this. As long as it's fun, I'm going to keep working."

FRAN OSTENDORF is the editor of The Jewish Voice.

2 stolen Torahs valued at $30,000 returned to NJ synagogue

JTA — Two Torahs valued at $30,000 that had been stolen with some $50,000 of silver religious pieces were returned to a New Jersey synagogue.

Thomas Dobles, 39, a former caretaker at Congregation B'nai Jacob in Jersey City, was arrested Aug. 25 as part of the investigation into the theft, WABC-TV reported. The pieces of silver Judaica have not been returned.

Two burglaries were discovered at the nearly 60-year-old synagogue on Aug. 22 and 23. The Jersey Journal reported that members of the nondenominational congregation immediately suspected the robberies were an inside job.

The synagogue's newly installed rabbi, Aaron Katz, told News 12 New Jersey that members of Dobles' family had been working at the building for over 20 years.

"We have confidence in this person," Katz said. "I think [the robbery has] broken this confidence."

The synagogue's co-president, Andy Siegel, told The Jersey Journal that the Torah scrolls could be older than 100 years old.

"It was very disturbing," Siegel said. "This is our heritage."

Jewish nonprofit fires CFO over alleged financial improprieties

JTA – Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Boston has fired its chief financial officer for alleged financial improprieties, the Boston Globe reported.

The CFO, identified by the Globe as Francis X. Rivers, 60, had worked for Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Boston for two years.

The nonprofit organization has hired an outside company to investigate the allegations, the newspaper reported Monday, citing a letter sent to donors earlier this month. The organization, which receives some funding from Boston's Combined Jewish Philanthropies, has not said how much money is missing.

In 2001, Rivers reportedly pleaded guilty in New York to grand larceny charges for stealing $334,910 from the Mountain Lakes Regional Emergency Medical Services Council. He used a different last name, Beaudet, at that time, the Globe reported.

The agency, which sets up Jewish and non-Jewish children with adult mentors, has an annual budget of about $2.2 million.

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Which birthdays are financial milestones?



When it comes to your finances, some birthdays are more important than others. Take this quiz to see if you can identify the ages that might trigger financial changes.

Questions

1. Eligibility for Medicare coverage begins at what age?
   a. 62
   b. 65
   c. 66

2. A child can stay on a parent's health insurance plan until what age?
   a. 18
   b. 21
   c. 26

3. At this age individuals who are making contributions to a traditional or Roth IRA or an employer-sponsored retirement plan can begin making "catch-up" contributions.
   a. 50
   b. 55
   c. 60
   d. 66

4. This age is most often associated with drops in auto insurance premiums.
   a. 18
   b. 25
   c. 40
   d. 50

5. Individuals who have contributed enough to Social Security to qualify for retirement benefits become eligible to begin collecting reduced benefits starting at what age?
   a. 62
   b. 65
   c. 66
   d. 70

6. To obtain a credit card, applicants under this age must demonstrate an independent ability to make account payments or have a cosigner.
   a. 16
   b. 18
   c. 21

Answers

1. **b. 65.** Medicare eligibility begins at age 65, although people with certain conditions or disabilities may be able to enroll at a younger age. You'll be automatically enrolled in Medicare when you turn 65 if you're already receiving Social Security benefits, or you can sign up on your own if you meet eligibility requirements.

2. **c. 26.** Under the Affordable Care Act, a child may retain his or her status as a dependent on a parent's health insurance plan until age 26. If your child is covered by your employer-based plan, coverage will typically end during the month of your child's 26th birthday. Check with the plan or your employer to find out exactly when coverage ends.

3. **a. 50**. If you're 50 or older, you may be able to make contributions to your IRA or employer-sponsored retirement plan above the normal contribution limit. These "catch-up" contributions are designed to help you make up a retirement savings shortfall by bumping up the amount you can save in the years leading up to retirement. If you participate in an employer-sponsored retirement plan, check plan rules – not all plans allow catch-up contributions.

4. **b. 25**. By age 25, drivers generally see their premiums decrease because, statistically, drivers younger than this age have higher accident rates. Gaining experience and maintaining a clean driving record should lead to lower premiums over time. However, there's no age when auto insurance rates automatically drop because rates are based on many factors, including type of vehicle and claims history, and vary by state and insurer. Each individual's situation is unique.

5. **a. 62.** You can begin receiving Social Security retirement benefits as early as age 62. However, your benefits will be reduced by as much as 30% below what you would have received if you had waited until your full retirement age (66 to 67, depending on your year of birth).

6. **c. 21.** As a result of the Credit Card Act of 2009, credit card companies cannot issue cards to those under age 21 unless they can show proof that they can repay the debt themselves or unless someone age 21 or older with the ability to make payments cosigns the credit card agreement.

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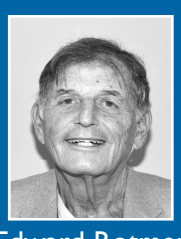

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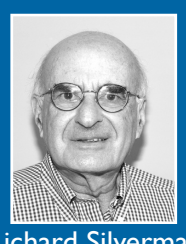

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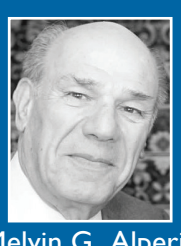

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OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

FROM PAGE 1 | **LETTER**

recitation of Washington's letter, which still resonates today.

The recitation has grown into a community gathering and awards presentation reinforcing of our first president's support for religious liberty.

Resident Imam and Scholar Mufti Ikram ul Haq, from Masjid Al Islam, in North Smithfield, spoke right before the Artillery Company of Newport, in Colonial garb, carried flags up to the small bimah at the front of the sanctuary. Words of support followed from Jeanne-Marie Napolitano, mayor of Newport, and Nellie Gorbea, Rhode Island's secretary of state.

"Rhode Island actually started it all … in today's Rhode Island we must reflect that same commitment to religious liberty and the diversity of our citizens, and to welcome all," Gorbea said.

"Our best public policies come from respecting others' opinions. Newport in particular was the center for all this," she continued, as she asked those in attendance to reflect on how they can continue to preserve religious freedom.

Following Gorbea, R.I. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse highlighted the importance of the famous line from Washington's letter, "to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance."

The event also featured the presentation of the Slom Scholarship Awards, which, according to Touro's website, recognize high school students who "submit an interpretive work focusing on the George Washington Letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, R.I., in context with the present time," and the Alexander George Teitz Award, "given annually to an individual or institution that best exemplifies the contemporary commitment to the ideals of religious and ethnic tolerance and freedom."

Recipients of the Slom scholarship were Halle Duggan and Colin Martin, of Newport; Connor McGill, of Westerly; Elena Miceli, of Exeter; and John Fanelli, of Princeton Junction, New Jersey.

The Alexander George Teitz Award went to the Four Faiths Organization, which organizes tours of four of Newport's key religious sites, for its "lively experiment with religious freedom." Andrew Long, the outreach coordinator of Newport's United Congregational Church and a key organizer for Four Faiths, accepted the award.

After the awards presentations, Massachusetts state Sen. Michael Rodrigues, a member of the Azorean Jewish Heritage Foundation, read the Aug. 17, 1790, letter from Moses Seixas, warden of the Hebrew congregation at Touro Synagogue, to Washington. In the famous letter, Seixas gives thanks for the "Blessings of civil and religious liberty" in the new nation. Lawyer Gary P. Naftalis then read the George Washington letter.



Mufti Ikram ul Haq

The keynote speaker was Wesley J. Fastiff, of San Francisco, chairman emeritus of the board of Littler Mendelson P.C., a law firm that specializes in employment and labor law. The son of two immigrants to Massachusetts, Fastiff said his parents were in the fruit business and, through hard work and diligence, were eventually able to open their own store in Fall River.

After acknowledging the importance of Washington's phrase "to persecution, no assistance," Fastiff turned to another part of the letter.

"Another phrase, found in the last sentence, caught my attention: 'occupational liberty' stood out for me," Fastiff said. " 'Scatter light and not darkness upon our paths,'" he quoted, "'and make us in all our subvocations useful here.'"

"President Washington recognized that opportunity in the form of occupational liberty … is a true component of religious freedom," said Fastiff, noting that in 1790 this concept was revolutionary, especially for Jews.

Since Colonial times, Fastiff continued, occupational liberty has grown through such equality laws as the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Equal Pay Act of 1963. Washington's notion of occupational liberty, he said, is "stronger today than ever."

"By fostering diversity and inclusiveness … [we are] expanding George Washington's visions," Fastiff said. "We help to make the nation's workplace both stronger and smarter."

Fastiff said, with a smile, that he wasn't going to touch on how Washington's words relate to the current political campaign in our country – but his silence on the topic still proved expressive.

Fastiff left the audience with a final thought: "The fact that the son of two hard-working fruit merchants has been honored as I have to stand before you today is proof that George Washington's vision of 226 years ago is still a reality today."

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

Torat Yisrael program features convention attendees

On Sunday, Sept. 18, local Jews, who attended the recent Republican National Convention in Cleveland and the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, will speak about their experiences, at Temple Torat Yisrael in East Greenwich. A breakfast at 9 a.m., sponsored by the Temple's Men's Club, will be followed by the speaking program at 9:30 a.m. The event is open to the public.

Speakers at the event are:

Joe Paolino, former mayor of Providence, ambassador, major downtown Providence property owner and TV talk show host.

Richard Weiner from East Greenwich, a recent Georgetown University graduate, is the son of the late Mark Weiner (former Democratic State Chairman), and a longtime personal friend of the Clintons.

Rebecca Schiff from Jamestown is an instructor at the Naval War College in Newport. She is an expert on the anti-BDS movement and spoke recently in Israel on this subject. She is running for State Representative this year in House District 74 (Middletown and Jamestown).

David Talan is vice-chairman of the state Republican Party and a former candidate for mayor of Providence. He is on the Board of Trustees of Temple Torat Yisrael, and on the board of the Temple's Men's Club.

Temple Torat Yisrael is at 1251 Middle Road in East Greenwich. For more information, contact: Dave Talan at 401-862-7519 or DaveTalan@aol.com

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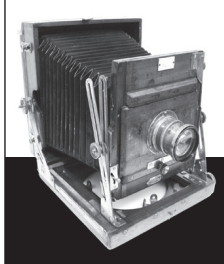
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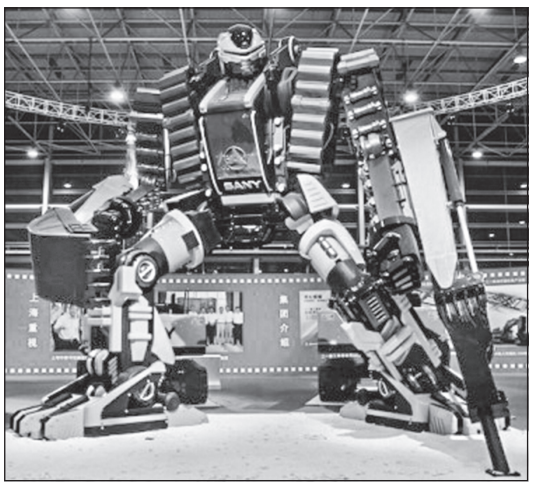
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Israeli students win 2nd prize at international robotics contest



JTA – A group of Israeli high school students came in second place at an international robotics competition in Shanghai, China.

The students were granted an Inspiration Award in the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology Robotics Competition, or FRC, which included 57 teams from Israel, the United States, Canada, Australia, Brazil and China, according to the Friends of Israel Sci-Tech Schools.

In the competition, which concluded earlier this month, students had to build robots to complete various tasks, such as balancing on a beam and scoring balls into goals.

The Israeli team consisted of 29 students from a science and technology high school in the northern city of Binyamina.

Students at the Binyamina high school have been participating in FRC since 2005 and have won awards every year, said Zvi Peleg, director general of the Israel Sci-Tech Schools Network.

"There's no better proof than that to the talents and skills of our students, which places them and our schools among the best technology schools in the world," he said.

Segev Huly, a member of the team, said it was a "great honor" to participate in the event.

"We see our participation and win as a big step toward promoting the field of robotics in China, and placing Israel as one of the world's leading powers in technology," he said.

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin sent the students a letter of commendation on their efforts.

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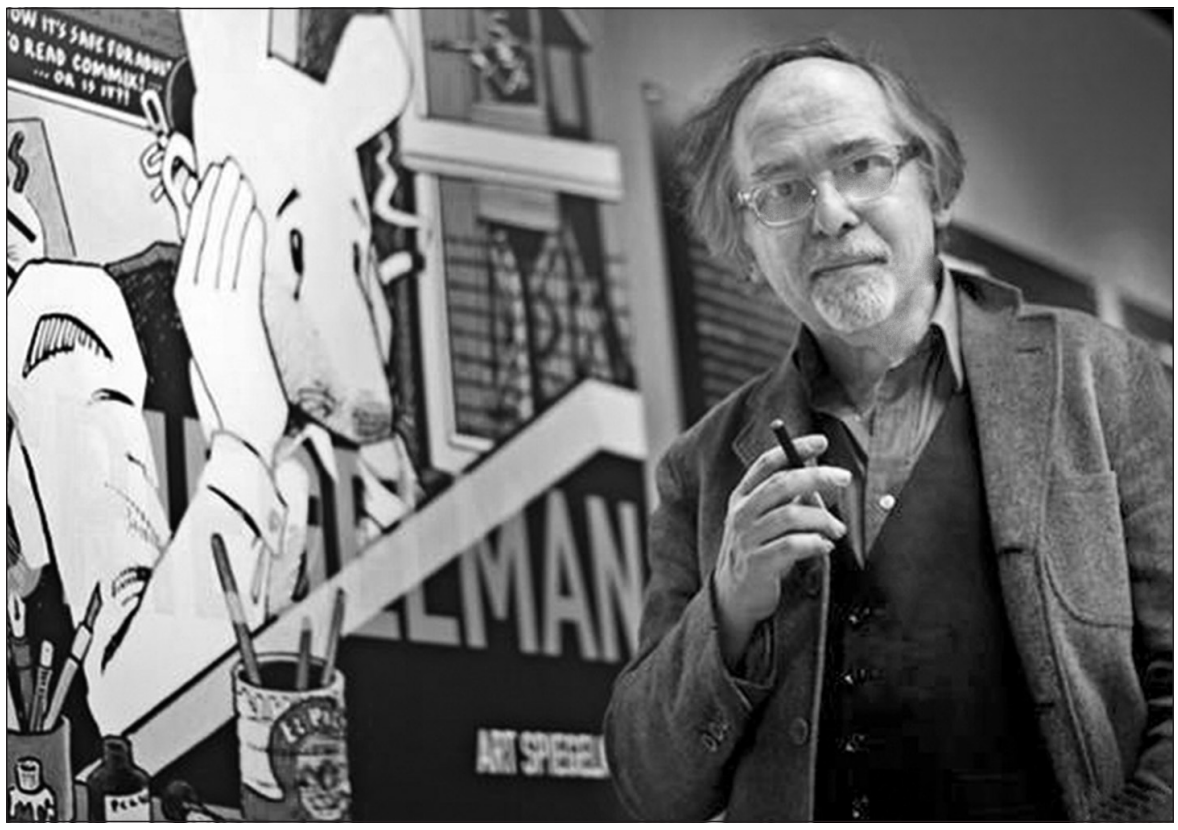
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Award-winning author and illustrator at Roger Williams University

BRISTOL, R.I. – From creating controversial New Yorker covers to launching the graphic novel into contention as serious literature, Art Spiegelman does not shy away from drawing attention to society's most pressing problems through his work. A pioneer in the underground "comix" scene since the 1960s, Spiegelman creates haunting works of graphic art that have brought readers inside the death camps of the Holocaust, to the phantom space where the Twin Towers once stood, and most recently, throughout the abandoned immigration checkpoint at Ellis Island, where etched upon the walls were ghostly reminders of the millions who had passed through to start a new life in America.



Art Spiegelman

On Sept. 7, Spiegelman, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and illustrator of the landmark graphic novel, "Maus," will speak at Roger Williams University as part of the President's Distinguished Speakers Series.

The conversation will feature a multimedia presentation that takes the audience on a chronological journey of the evolution of comics and focus on the power of this art form to illuminate prejudice and fear as well as to cultivate a sense of humanity and compassion that crosses all cultures. In his presentation – "What the %@&*! Happened to Comics?" – Spiegelman will examine the value of the medium and why it should be celebrated, not ignored.

"Graphic art has opened an important dialog around the world on human rights, freedom of speech and censorship, and Art Spiegelman is the foremost authority on pushing the boundaries of the intersection of graphic art and politics," says RWU Professor of Political Science Robert Eisinger. "His work transcends disciplinary boundaries to become at once art, politics, history and cultural studies. As we think about the meaning of freedom of expression and freedom of the press, we must remember that in some countries his work would be considered illegal, dangerous and forbidden, which makes his art that much more powerful, influential and relevant."

In 1992, Spiegelman earned worldwide acclaim for bringing comic books into the spotlight as meaningful literature when he won the Pulitzer Prize for his masterful narrative, "Maus," which depicted his father's story of surviving the Holocaust with Nazis portrayed as cats and Jews as mice. The New Yorker called it "the first masterpiece in comic book history," and the Wall Street Journal hailed it as "the most affecting and successful narrative ever done about the Holocaust."

Thirty years later, The Washington Post continues to praise it as "the greatest graphic novel ever written."

He continued to explore the story of his parents' survival of the Nazi regime and their lives in America with "Maus II," and later published "MetaMaus" – about why he wrote the series – which received the 2011 National Jewish Book Award.

Spiegelman has continued to push the boundaries of provocative art, claiming a spot on Time Magazine's "100 Most Influential People" list in 2005 and the distinction of being one of a select few Americans to receive the honor of Grand Prix at the 2011 Angoulême International Comics Festival.

After beginning his career as the creator of "Wacky Packages" and "Garbage Pail Kids," Spiegelman founded the comics anthology "RAW," with his wife, Françoise Mouly. He has written several graphic novels, including the autobiographical "Breakdowns," and a series of broadsheet-sized color comics pages, "In the Shadow of No Towers," which made it onto many national bestseller lists and was selected by The New York Times Book Review as one of the "100 Notable Books of 2004." In 2015, he collaborated with renowned artist JR on "The Ghosts of Ellis Island."

Spiegelman's presentation is also part of a yearlong series of academic programming at RWU that will explore and celebrate the stories of refugees around the world and the political and cultural impact of the refugee movement on society.

The Sept. 7 lecture will take place in the Roger Williams Campus Recreation Center on the University's Bristol campus at One Old Ferry Road. The event will begin at 7 p.m. It is free and open to the public; no tickets are required. For more information, call 401-254-3154.



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Susan L. Cohn, 51

WAYLAND, MASS. – Susan L. (Alpert) Cohn of Wayland, Mass., formerly of Somerset, died on June 26. Beloved wife of Lewis J. Cohn. Dear daughter of Fay Alpert (Louison) and the late Bennett Alpert. Devoted mother of Stephanie, Haley and Harris. Loving sister of Richard and Jillian Alpert. Daughter-in-law of Dorothy (Zura) Cohn and the late Richard W. Cohn. Sister-in-law of Audrey Shuman. Aunt of Seth, Samantha and Ashley.

Susan was a graduate of the Lincoln School in Providence, and Simmons College in Boston.

Remembrances may be made to Susan Cohn's Giving Page, c/o Susan Korsmeyer, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 10 Brookline Place West, Brookline, Mass. 02445.

Goldie Rudacevsky, 84

WARWICK, R.I. – Goldie Rudacevsky died Aug. 23 at Miriam Hospital in Providence. She was the beloved wife of the late Arnold Rudacevsky. Born in Fall River, Mass., a daughter of the late Israel and Celia (Cohen) Sanft, she had lived in Warwick for 21 years, previously living in Cranston.

She was an accounts payable manager at West Bay Community Center in Warwick for nine years, a secretary at Cranston General Hospital for 15 years and owner of Rudy's Deli in Cranston for nine years, retiring in 2002. She had schooling in computer science and was very computer-savvy. She was also an avid reader, enjoyed cooking and was very family-oriented.

Devoted mother of William Rudacevsky and his wife, Nancy, of Cranston; Lynda Rudacevsky and her husband, Diego Campanile, of Naples, Italy; and the late Henry Rudacevsky. Dear sister of Aaron Sanft of Mesa, Ariz.; Ethel Schwartz of Swansea, Mass.; and the late Lloyd, Abraham, Louis, Sonny, Bertha, Ruth, Rose and Shirley. Loving grandmother of Andrea, Giordana, Matteo, Alicia, Audra and the late Adam. Cherished great-grandmother of Gianna, Isabella, Natalia, Ramel, Azarel, and Brielle. Adored great-great-grandmother of Chrisgianno.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906.

Natalie Stein, 67



BRISTOL, R.I. – Natalie (Silver) Stein passed away in her daughter's home in North Carolina on Aug. 23. Natalie fought a year-long battle with brain cancer and passed away peacefully surrounded by her children.

Born in Philadelphia, Pa., Natalie moved to Barrington in 1985 where she raised her three children. As her kids grew up, she returned to school and obtained a master's degree in counseling education. She then proudly worked as a guidance counselor at Barrington Middle School up until the onset of her illness in August 2015.

Natalie was an active member of the congregation at Temple Habonim in Barrington, where she enjoyed singing with the Ruach singers. She was fiercely dedicated to her family, friends, community and students.

Natalie is survived by her children Drs. Joshua and Tamara Stein of West Hartford, Conn.; Drs. Rachel Stein and Nabil Ali of Hillsborough, N.C.; and Matthew Stein of Sunnyvale, Calif. She is also survived by her brother Terry Silver and his wife Meryl Silver of Philadelphia, as well as her grandchildren Caroline, Emily and Sarah Stein, and Rami Ali.

Donations can be made to Barrington Middle School. Checks can be made out to BMS-PTO and please write in the memo in honor of Natalie Stein. Checks can be mailed to Barrington Middle School, PTO, Attention Treasurer, 261 Middle Highway, Barrington R.I. 02806.

Gene Wilder, star of classic comedies, dies at 83

JTA – Gene Wilder, a comedic actor known for playing wild-eyed eccentrics such as the titular characters in "Young Frankenstein" and "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory," has died at 83.

Wilder, who was Jewish, died Aug. 28 from complications of Alzheimer's disease, his nephew, filmmaker Jordan Walker-Pearlman, told The Associated Press.

Born Jerome Silberman in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1933, Wilder later adopted his stage name, saying he couldn't imagine a marquee reading "Jerome Silberman as 'Hamlet.' "

He worked closely with Jewish director Mel Brooks. In addition to starring in Brooks' "Young Frankenstein" as the American grandson of the creator of the famous monster, he portrayed accountant Leo Bloom in "The Producers" opposite "Fiddler on the Roof" star Zero Mostel's Max Bialystock, and a hard-drinking, pot-smoking gunman, the Waco Kid, in the satirical Western "Blazing Saddles."



The New York Times called Wilder's performance in "Young Frankenstein," which he co-wrote with Brooks, a "marvelous addled mixture of young Tom Edison, Winnie-the-Pooh, and your average Playboy reader with a keen appreciation of beautiful bosoms." "Blazing Saddles" and "Young Frankenstein," were, respectively, the top and fourth-highest grossing movies of 1974.

In 1972, Wilder appeared in the Woody Allen film "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex* (*But Were Afraid to Ask)."

Wilder also starred as Avram Belinski, a rabbi who befriends a bank robber played by a young Harrison Ford, in the 1979 Western comedy "The Frisco Kid."

He and the late comedian Richard Pryor also teamed up in a series of black-Jewish buddy movies, including "Stir Crazy" and "Silver Streak."

Wilder was married four times, including to Jewish comedian Gilda Radner in 1984. Radner died of ovarian cancer in 1989.

Following her death, Wilder became active in promoting cancer awareness and research, co-founding "Gilda's Club," a nonprofit organization providing support to those affected by cancer.

In 1991, he married Karen Webb, a speech therapist, and the couple was together until Wilder's death.

ASK THE DIRECTOR

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

As I entered Lincoln Park Cemetery, I noticed some people who were washing their hands at a small fountain near the entrance. What is the purpose of this?

P.J. North Kingstown

Dear P.J.,
There are several reasons for the custom of hand washing when leaving the cemetery. Some see it as a life-affirming ritual after encountering death. Biblically (Deut. 21: 6-9), when someone died of mysterious causes, the people of the area would wash their hands at the cemetery, symbolically affirming that they had not shed innocent blood. There is also a belief that one should not bring dust or earth from the cemetery into a house of the living, and washing will remove any bad spirits. Another rationale for this practice is to cleanse oneself from the ritual impurity regarding the *Kohanim* (priestly ones) coming into contact with the dead in any way.

As always, I would refer you to your local rabbi for more details.

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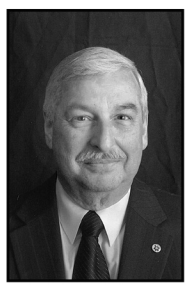
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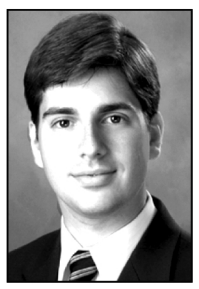
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REMEMBER THE PAST

From the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

An outstanding women's group enters the archives

BY JOSHUA JASPER

I wanted to write an article about the long and storied history of women in invigorating and enlivening the Rhode Island Jewish community, but where to begin? Even in the period when women were not often seen in the workplace, Jewish women were a force throughout Rhode Island. I believe that Eleanor Horvitz, one of my predecessors as librarian here at the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society, said it best. She wrote, "In the documentation of the charitable acts of the Rhode Island Jewish women ... every year has been 'the year of the woman'."

As I began to dig deeper into the topic, I noticed that many of the seemingly disparate public roles that Jewish women held long ago in Rhode Island were connected to one organization. The name arose when I looked into a Girl Scout troop based in the Jewish Community Center. A rumor of unofficial cooperation and shared board members came up when I looked into the earliest history of The Miriam Hospital Women's Association. Not only was this organization involved with the building of the first Miriam Hospital, but it also started the conversation by running its free-clinic-style predecessor, the North End Dispensary. While the rest of the Jewish community argued over the appropriateness of a separate hospital for the Jewish population, the women saw a need and acted swiftly.

The name of the organization that kept popping up: the Rhode Island Section of the National Council of Jewish Women.

The history of the local chapter of the NCJW would fill a large tome – and easily fill an entire issue of the RIJHA Notes, our annual journal on local history. For over 100 years, the women in this group would identify community needs, find a solution, and run with it. Such as the Council Thrift Shop, the resettlement of recent Russian Jewish immigrants, and their work to stop gun violence, to name a few. (The Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association archives hold all of the records for the NCJW, and they are available for anyone who would like to visit and read them.)

Articles in the historical association's Notes, as well as in The Jewish Herald and The Jewish Voice, have touched on important aspects of R.I.'s NCJW. So instead of writing further about the wonderful and vibrant history of the NCJW, I'll tell a more personal story.

Unfortunately, sometimes the RIJHA receives a large donation of materials for a very sad reason. Perhaps a death in the family, or the closing of a synagogue. The story of the end of the R.I. Section of the NCJW has particularly touched me.

I suppose that it folded for the same reasons that many similar long-lasting community institutions have closed, both in Rhode Island and across the country: The membership was aging and they were having trouble recruiting new members. Without young members, with new ideas and energy, the group had trouble getting



PHOTO | VOICE FILES

Ellie Elbaum and Nan Levine

things done in the community.

As the years passed, the local chapter's volunteering and advocacy became harder and harder to sustain.

On May 20, 2015, without a dry eye in the room, the Rhode Island Section of the NCJW voted to disband.

For the next year, it was the task of the last co-presidents, Ellie Elbaum and Nan Levine, to follow proper procedures, in the appropriate order, to shut down.

Early this summer, I received a phone call from Levine. As the librarian/archivist at the RIJHA, I was her last step. She had already arranged with my predecessor, Anne Sherman, to donate all of the materials from the NCJW, save one box. The week before she called, she had officially closed the chapter, and now she was ready to donate that last box.

I am embarrassed to say that before that phone call, "NCJW" was just a name on boxes in the archives to me; I did not have any knowledge of the National Council of Jewish Women. So Levine not only donated the materials, but took the time to educate me.

She emphasized that while the Rhode Island Section is gone, the national organization is still vibrant and active in this state. She talked about all the work that is still to be done, and encouraged me to find out more about the organization by going to www.ncjw.org. She also emphasized the importance of telling the story of the NCJW, and of showing how much a group of women working together can achieve.

There is still plenty of volunteerism, advocacy, and philanthropy among the Jewish women of Rhode Island. For instance, the Rhode Island chapter of Hadassah, The Miriam Hospital Women's Association, and the Women's Alliance at the Jewish Alliance are still active and vibrant. When my wife and I moved to the East Side last summer, we received a hearty welcome from the loosely organized N'Shei Chesed Association.

Plus, Levine has assured me that the NCJW still takes R.I. members, and is very active in its advocacy.

I also want to emphasize that many young women, like my wife, advocate and volunteer as part of newer national Jewish groups, such as Eshel and Keshet. They use the internet and social media to get the word out, and participate on equal footing with the male volunteers.

But I can't shake the feeling that something is irrevocably lost when a long-standing community institution goes away. Other groups may fill the need, but certainly without the wealth of experience and authority of older, venerable organizations.

JOSHUA JASPER is the librarian/archivist of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association. The library and archives are open to the public Monday through Friday. The RIJHA encourages donations of materials for its archives.

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FROM PAGE 8

POLL

proposed peace deal, the poll found. Secular and left-wing Israeli Jews are more likely to be supportive, while more religious and right-wing Israeli Jews are less likely to back the plan. Just 16 percent of Israeli settlers in the West Bank are on board, compared to 40 percent of non-settlers.

Similarly, less-religious Palestinians are more supportive of the deal than are the more-religious, and there is a large difference in support between Fatah and Hamas voters – 57 percent versus 25 percent. Fatah is the political party of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. Hamas is the Islamist terrorist group that governs the Gaza Strip.

Who should broker peace? A large plurality of Palestinians (44 percent) prefer multilateral negotiations, while a similar number of Israeli Jews (40 percent) prefer bilateral talks between the Israeli government and the Palestinians. Just 18 percent on both sides favor a unilateral approach.

When asked to choose among four potential mediators of talks, an Arab forum of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan was the most popular among both Israeli Jews and Palestinians (26 percent and 22 percent, respectively). All the other proposed options – the United States, the European Union and the United Nations – are acceptable to one side but unacceptable to the other.

"The leadership of an Arab forum is of course interpreted differently by the two sides," Hermann said. "For Israelis, it means they are jumping over the heads of the Palestinians and negotiating their future with others. [Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor] Liberman is very much in favor of this arrangement. From the Palestinian point of view, as they feel weak in a bilateral framework, they prefer to have a multilateral framework with their big brothers."

Egypt and France are both pushing initiatives to revive Israel-Palestinian peace talks. Palestinian leaders demand that Israel freeze settlement construction and agree to negotiate based on its pre-1967 borders as preconditions for talks.

Most Palestinians (62 percent) blame the Israelis for the failure of previous rounds of negotiations, while most Israeli Jews (52 percent) blame the Palestinians. U.S. special envoy Martin Indyk, who oversaw the latest failed attempt, reportedly assigned most of the blame to Israel, while the State Department said no one is to blame but «both sides did things that were incredibly unhelpful.»

FREEWHEELING JEWS

BY GEORGE M. GOODWIN

What is it about Jews and cars? Almost everywhere I travel, including Little Rhody, I notice businesses, bumper stickers and license plates with Jewish names and messages. Don't worry, I'm usually walking with a camera hanging from my neck.

Fortunately, nobody has ever given me a hard time about taking a photo, but plenty of passersby wonder what I'm up to. I've thought about establishing a website devoted to Jews and cars, but I'm already up to my ears in other pursuits.



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Sign, right,
Congregation Beth Elohim,
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Los Angeles



Congregation Jeshuat Israel, as seen in Tiverton





Beverly Hills

HaZamir high school choir to hold auditions in Providence

HaZamir: the International Jewish High School Choir – HaZamir Providence, conducted by Cantor Brian Mayer, will hold an open house and auditions (no preparation necessary) on Sunday, Sept. 11, at 11:30 a.m. for teens interested in joining for the 2016-2017 season. Parents are welcome to accompany their teens to the Open House, at Temple Emanu-El, to learn more about the group.

HaZamir is a musical youth movement that provides a unique opportunity for Jewish teens of all denominations and backgrounds to sing sophisticated Jewish choral music in a fun, social setting. The Providence chapter is part of a network of 35 HaZamir chapters throughout the U.S. and Israel. Individual chapters meet weekly to learn a common repertoire, then gather together to polish and perform that repertoire at regional, national and international events, culminating in a gala concert with more than 400 singers from America and Israel. The next gala concert will be held at Avery Fisher Hall, in New York City, on March 26, 2017.



HaZamir Providence poses outside of Carnegie Hall at a past competition.

Jill Bromberg, a parent of a local HaZamirnik, reflected on this past year:

"My son, Jake Bromberg, and niece, Annette Milburn, are members of the Providence chapter of HaZamir: The International Jewish High School Choir. The choir of 22 teens from around the Jewish community rehearsed each Sunday at Temple Emanu-El.

"In January, Temple Israel, in Natick, Massachusetts, hosted 225 HaZamir singers for HaZamir's Annual East Coast Winter Intervisitation, a major stepping stone in preparing the high school singers for HaZamir's Gala Concert, this year held at Carnegie Hall.

"In late March, the singers, their conductors, and chaperones gathered in a hotel in the Catskill Mountains, in New York, for HaZamir's four-day festival. Over 400 singers from 26 U.S. and six Israeli chapters engaged in intensive rehearsals, social bonding, and a spirited pluralistic Shabbat experience.

"On the last day of the festival, the HaZamirniks left the Catskills and headed to New York City.

"At Carnegie Hall, the choir dazzled us with a wide range of Jewish music from different periods and styles and sang to an audience of 2,700 people united by this celebration of Jewish peoplehood and culture. It was stunningly beautiful and meaningful."

For more information about participating in or supporting HaZamir, contact Cantor Brian Mayer of Temple Emanu-El, Providence, at bjmayer@teprov.org and/or visit the Zamir Choral Foundation at www.zamirchoralfoundation.org.

– Submitted by HaZamir of Providence



Patrick C. Lynch
Attorney General: 2003-2011

Jeffrey B. Pine
Attorney General: 1993-1999

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PHOTO | FRAN OSTENDORF

Gilor Meshulam talks about Israel with a group of students during the community Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration in 2015.

FROM PAGE 1

GILOR

each generation.

Gilor serves in both aspects of rebuilding Israel. He has defended the State of Israel on the battlefield, and he builds the heart of the people of Israel, both here and in Israel. While in the army, he has said that he believed that building the Jewish hearts of his officer cadets and of his soldiers was as important to him as building their physical and military fitness.

In Rhode Island, he has been dedicated to building the Jewish hearts of students. However, he has not relied simply on "fun" activities. Gilor has been very serious about his mission, and wanted to make sure that his students understood Israel.

When Gilor first arrived, he prepared objectives for his units in the schools. A couple of people at first were concerned that he would be too rigorous for their schools, but he soon showed them that the students appreciated his teaching methods. Some appreciated him so much that they declared him to be their best teacher.

A couple of years ago, Gilor mentioned that one of his primary reasons for coming to the United States was to learn about Jews in the Diaspora. He felt that, as an Israeli, he had to have a much better understanding of his cousins in the U.S. if he was going to teach Jewish history and values in Israel. Now that he has accomplished that goal, Gilor is going on to an elite program for educators at Hebrew University, where he will rededicate himself to building the people's heart in Israel itself, fulfilling Ahad Ha'am's pronouncement: "The people's heart is the foundation on which the land will be built."

LARRY KATZ is director of Jewish life and learning at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.



WE ARE READ IN GERMANY – At a Jewish monument in Regensburg, Germany, are (left to right) bottom: Trudy Katz and Helene Klein; top: Rose Gergel and Harie Raisman. The group celebrated a milestone birthday with a river cruise from Nuremberg to Budapest, Hungary.



WE ARE READ IN PROVIDENCE – Amy Olsen, executive director of URI Hillel; Yaniv Havusha, Jewish student life associate; and Gali Gordon, JNF New England area director – Israel advocacy & education, met during the summer in Providence to strategize about ways for students to become more engaged with Israel during the coming academic year. Two opportunities include a College Summit Sept. 16-18 in NYC (jnf.org/nc) and Alternative Break in Israel (jnf.org/break).



WE ARE READ IN AMSTERDAM – Jill and Lindsay Goodman of West Warwick recently visited the Anne Frank house in Amsterdam. According to Jill, it was an amazing experience to walk behind the bookcase and up the steep staircase to see where Anne and her family lived. The two also visited Brussels and Paris. Lindsay, a senior at George Washington University, spent her summer session studying abroad in London and Amsterdam.



WEDDING – Melanie Sharon Farkas and Douglas Andrew Stark were married on June 26 in Providence. Melanie is the daughter of Paul and Esta Farkas of Longmeadow, Massachusetts. Doug is the son of Alan and Marjorie Stark of Washington, D.C. (recently of Holyoke, Massachusetts). Rabbi Wayne Franklin and Cantor Brian Mayer of Temple Emanu-El in Providence, as well as Rabbi Amy Katz and Cantor Elise Barber of Temple Beth El of Springfield, Massachusetts, officiated.

The happy couple honeymooned in Iceland. Both Melanie and Doug completed their undergraduate education at Brandeis University. Melanie is a psychologist working at Hasbro Children's Hospital. Doug is the museum director at the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport.



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