the JEWISH VOICE

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HOME & GARDEN

Jesse Itzler keynotes community campaign event

BY JENNIFER ZWIRN
jzwirn@jewishallianceri.org

The dynamic Jesse Itzler is known to push himself beyond his comfort zone and has been doing so since day one. A New York native, he is a natural entrepreneur who has dabbled in the worlds of music, brand incubation, and sports much of his life. Itzler's search for mental strength and integrity has come in many forms, all while preserving his Jewish identity and serving as inspiration for so many as he strives to continuously better himself physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

2017 ALLIANCE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN



Jesse Itzler

Itzler will share his inspirational message on Sunday, Oct. 30 at the Jewish Alliance's 2017 Annual Campaign Event co-

ITZLER | 13

Netanyahu, Israeli leaders mourn the loss of Shimon Peres

BY JTA STAFF

JERUSALEM (JTA) – At a special session to mourn and honor Shimon Peres, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the Israeli Cabinet that the late president "did so much to protect our people."

"This is the first day in Israel without Shimon Peres," Netanyahu said at the opening of the meeting on Sept. 28, followed by a moment of silence.

"In the name of the entire Jewish people, in the name of the citizens and government of the State of Israel, I also send deep condolences to Shimon's family," he said at the meeting in which he enumerated Peres' accomplishments on behalf of Israel.



Shimon Peres

Netanyahu earlier released a statement in which he noted that Peres, who died that morning two weeks after suffering a massive stroke, "devoted his life to our nation and to the pursuit of peace."

The prime minister wrote: "He set his gaze on the future. He did so much to protect our people.

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5776: A review of major events in the Jewish world

BY BEN HARRIS
(Part two of two)

JTA – A stabbing and car-ramming epidemic in Israel that some called a third intifada was among the most dominant Jewish stories of the past year. But 5776 was a year of many other notable events.

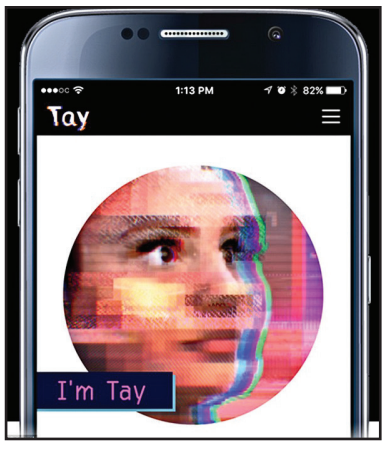
Below is part two of the timeline of the Jewish year's major events – the good, the bad and, in the case of the deaths of some Jewish giants, the very sad. Part one ran in the Sept. 16 Jewish Voice.

March 2016

• Jewish comedian Garry Shandling dies in Los Angeles at 66. Shandling wrote for several sitcoms before starring in his own shows, including "The Larry Sanders Show," which aired on HBO in the 1990s and earned Shandling 18 Emmy Award nominations.

• Venice launches a year-long commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the world's first official Jewish ghetto. Among the many events scheduled for the anniversary is an appearance by Jewish U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who presides over a mock trial of Shylock, the Jewish moneylender character from Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice."

• Microsoft pulls its artificial intelligence tweeting robot after it posted several anti-Semitic comments. The software company had launched the chatbot as an experiment but quickly paused the endeavor after the controversial tweets, several of which expressed admiration for Adolf Hitler.



Tay, Microsoft's artificial intelligence tweeting robot

• A Pew study of Israelis finds that 48 percent of the country's Jews agree that Arabs should be "expelled or transferred" out of the country.

The finding, the most shocking in a wide-ranging study of Israeli attitudes, is based on interviews with 5,600 Israelis conducted between October 2014 and May 2015.

• Israeli leaders condemn the actions of a soldier caught on video shooting an apparently incapacitated Palestinian lying on the ground.

"What happened today in

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THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE

"... have pride in your Judaism. Learn about its history and Israel's."

Tslil Reichman wants to teach you about Israel – and learn about the U.S.

BY FRAN OSTENDORF
fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org

Have you met Tslil Reichman? You may have seen her around town. She's the new Israeli *shlicha* (emissary), here for two years thanks to the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island in partnership with the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Tslil, 25, plans to help the Rhode Island Jewish community learn a little more about the Israel she loves.

She arrived in late July and has been getting to know Providence for the last two months.

"I'm still learning how things work here," she said recently. Then, she added, "I'm waiting for winter!"

Apparently, she's heard a lot about New England winters, which are quite different from the winters in Yehud, in central Israel, where she grew up. Most recently, she has lived in Be'er Sheva, the town in southern Israel that she considers home. Not a lot of winter there either.

Two weeks before coming to the United States, Tslil graduated from Ben Gurion University of the Negev with a degree in sociology, anthropology and education.

She has two older sisters, one of whom is getting married later this year, and she'll be returning to Israel for that happy occasion.



Tslil Reichman

The family lived in London for six years, which explains how well-spoken Tslil is in English. After the Army, she spent several months traveling in South America.

In the Army, where she served for 2 1/2 years as a commander, she helped young recruits in the driving school get adjusted to military life, teaching Army values and the Army system. These were soldiers, she says, who might never have been away from home before and who needed to learn how to deal with everything associated with that transition. She helped them deal with "system shock."

Tslil described that experience as being meaningful to others. And that's not the only time she has filled that kind of role. While in college, she served as a coordinator of student mentors. "I was in charge of 50 students working with [children with] special needs," she says. "It was the best two years of my life."



Tslil and Teen Lounge participants made Israeli chocolate balls, her favorite desert.

Tslil is enthusiastic when she talks about bringing a slice of Israeli culture to Rhode Island. "I want to offer a side of Israel you might not see," she says. "And people here can teach me things about Israel that I do not know."

Jews have so many different stories, she says, citing Moroccan Jews as an example. This group came to Israel in the 1950s and 1960s and brought with them their own set of Passover customs. Tslil plans a Passover program based on this in the spring.

Also in the works are a movie series, a *shakshuka* club, and programs focusing on Israeli holidays and events.

And Tslil plans to offer "space to talk about Israel."

"I'm here and I'm happy to talk," she says from her office at the Dwares Jewish Community Center, in Providence.

You can also follow Tslil on Facebook. Look for Tslil Reichman Shlicha.

FRAN OSTENDORF is the editor of The Jewish Voice.



Event Co-Chairs Mynde & Gary Siperstein and Bethany & Richard Sutton invite you to attend

JEWISH ALLIANCE OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND'S
2017 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN EVENT
FEATURING JESSE ITZLER
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 | 7PM
TEMPLE EMANU-EL | 99 TAFT AVE., PROVIDENCE

This event is free of charge with a donation of any amount to the 2017 Annual Campaign.

Jesse Itzler co-founded Marquis Jet, the world's largest prepaid private jet card company in 2001. He then helped pioneer the coconut water craze with Zico Coconut Water, which he and his partners sold to The Coca-Cola Company in 2013. When he is not running ultra-marathons, Jesse can be found at the NBA's Atlanta Hawks games, since he is an owner of the team.

In 2006, Itzler earned the nickname "100-mile-man," after competing in a 100-mile run in Texas, raising $1 million for his top ten favorite charities — including funding an educational center in *Rishon Letzion*, Israel, which features extended day-care hours and a preschool for low-income families.

Itzler is the author of, "Living with a SEAL," which tells about how he and his family lived with a Navy SEAL for one month. Itzler is married to Spanx founder Sara Blakely and they live in Atlanta, Georgia with their four boys.

Jewish Alliance OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

To RSVP, visit jewishallianceri.org or contact Michele Gallagher at 401.421.4111 ext. 165 or mgallagher@jewishallianceri.org.

Wendy Schiller discusses presidential politics at The Miriam Hospital Women's Association event

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

Removing the mic from its stand in a conference room at The Miriam Hospital, Wendy Schiller walked around the stage as she said, "I have no idea who in this audience is a Trump fan or who is a Clinton fan, so I'm going to speak as freely as possible."

For the next 90 minutes, at an event on Sept. 21 sponsored by The Miriam Hospital Women's Association, Schiller offered her political insights into the November election.

Schiller, who is chairwoman of the political science department at Brown University and a frequent TV commentator, said the much-anticipated presidential debates will not sway many voters.

"The debates are going to be highly engaging, but they're not going to matter," she said, noting that President Barack Obama didn't do very well in his first debate, then did a little better, and then did great, but still remained neck and neck with Mitt Romney in the polls.

Hillary Clinton will do "really well," in the debates, she said, while Donald Trump will do "moderately okay." But, ultimately, she said, the media will say that Trump won.

Schiller presented many statistics from campaigns past and current, including that the demographic with the highest turnout on voting day is black women, at 70.5 percent.

She discussed almost every minority group and how much of that minority's vote each candidate would need to succeed.



Wendy Schiller

She said the notion that millennials could swing the election is misguided.

Schiller also addressed the prediction that 15 percent of Republicans might cross the floor to vote for Clinton.

"This is American politics. People are partisan. And people who are partisan will typically stay with their party," Schiller said. "I think they will stay home or they will vote for everything else" – such as the Senate and the House candidates – "just not the presidential race."

Schiller said a positive if Trump should win is that his "race rhetoric … might wake America up more." She said a negative that a President Clinton could face is an oppositional Republican House, and then "we can count on gridlock."

Schiller concluded with a final, comforting thought: "I know this from American history: the republic will stand."

Before Schiller spoke, the evening started with a buffet and an opportunity to view an extensive collection of election campaign buttons dating back to the mid-1800s. The collection is owned by former Miriam employee Sheila Roulston.

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



PHOTOS | ARIEL BROTHMAN

The campaign buttons on display were only a fraction of a private collection.





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Jeffrey Savit and Mitzi Berkelhammer with JCDSRI parents Mara Ostro and Alison Walter, with their children.



Super Sunday co-chairs, Marc and Susan Gertsacov.

Super Sunday considered a super success

BY STEPHANIE HAGUE
shague@jewishallianceri.org

Sept. 18 not only marked the first Patriots home game, but also an exciting and successful Super Sunday where the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island kicked-off its 2017 Annual Campaign, raising a stellar $130,000 through the effort of more than 80 community volunteers, representing 13 local agencies, synagogues and organizations. In what has become an annual tradition, the following Monday evening students from the New England Rabbinical College participated in the fundraising effort. Altogether volunteers received contributions from more than 300 donors.

2017 ALLIANCE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Super Sunday was chaired by Marc and Susan Gertsacov who helped to ensure it was a philanthropic day for community members of all ages. A group of teens involved in *tikkun olam* at Temple Torat Yisrael in East Greenwich, where the Gertsacovs are involved members, joined in learning about the work of the Jewish Alliance and writing thank you notes to donors. The Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island helped with some of the youngest volunteers of the day, and also won the agency challenge. The agency challenge awards $500 for professional development to the local organization that has the most volunteers on Super Sunday.

Essential programs in the community and around the world rely on the Jewish Alliance's annual campaign dollars to continue the important work. The most vulnerable Jews are helped through Kosher meals-on-wheels, the Kosher food pantry and counseling services. Jewish identity is fostered through programs such as PJ Library, J-Camp, J-Space, and scholarships for overnight Jewish camp and day schools. In addition, the Jewish Alliance supports programs in Israel, the former Soviet Union and other Jewish communities around the world.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information about the 2017 Annual Campaign, the Jewish Alliance, or to make a gift by phone, contact Michele Gallagher at mgallagher@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 165. Make a gift online at jewishallianceri.org.

STEPHANIE HAGUE is the philanthropy officer at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.



Jeanie Charness, Jan Goldman, Stefanie Aronow and Russell Raskin make the calls.



Susan Froehlich and Jamie Pious, vice-chairs of philanthropy

the JEWISH VOICE

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PHOTO | SETH FINKLE

A very satisfied group of bakers with their cakes along with judges and organizers.

Creativity takes the cake

BY CYNTHIA BENJAMIN

With graham crackers, honey and apples, plus generous amounts of creativity, teamwork and kitchen skills, 13 girls whipped up three beautiful cakes, suitable for the most elegant Rosh Hashanah table, at the Dwares JCC on Sept. 17.

The occasion was "Cake Wars," an event for tweens and teens sponsored by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, the Dwares JCC, BBYO New England Region and BBYO Connect.

As the girls gathered, many plunked down cans of Kosher food to be donated to The Louis & Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry, in Providence. After a short presentation on hunger in Rhode Island by Wendy Joering, director of member and concierge services at the Alliance, the girls got to work.

Each of the three teams was given two unfrosted cakes and a "mystery basket" that turned out to hold mandatory ingredients – apples, frosting and graham crackers – plus many optional items, including Oreos and chocolate chips. Many other decorating items were available, from food coloring to jimmies, and the girls looked them over as they planned their holiday cakes. And then, with spoons, safety scissors and plastic gloves in hand, they began to construct their culinary creations.

As Julia Keizler crushed Oreos, Alena Wiebe expertly cut an apple into wedges. Abby Swartz cast a critical eye on the team's creation and grabbed a tube of frosting to make adjustments. Nearby, Kiley Bramson mixed up a s'mores filling.

When it was all done, and all hands were washed clean of blue and yellow and pink frosting, the cakes were presented to the judges: Cake decorator Megan Beauregard and Michael Stern, owner of the Three Sisters ice cream shop and restaurant in Providence.

Team JEAA's two-layer vanilla cake featured a filling of crushed Oreos and chocolate chips, honey frosting, an apple shaped like a flower on top, and a border of chocolate wafers and *shofars* painted on graham crackers.

Team 2's two-layer cake was covered in blue frosting, crushed Oreos and graham crackers, and decorated with a large Star of David.

Team Small but Mighty's layer cake featured "A Rosh Hashanah-inspired apple pie and honey filling."

The judges looked, then tasted. Then they asked about the creative process.

While many of the girls didn't know each other when they entered the room, "we all worked together," Abby Swartz said. Even though some girls began planning before they arrived, they listened to teammates' input and adjusted, others said. And when things went horribly wrong, they said they improvised.

How come they didn't go for the obvious decorating choice of jimmies? "They're for babies," the girls explained.

And what do they need to do better next time?

"We should have done better keeping Abby's hair out of the frosting," Elliana Chambers offered.

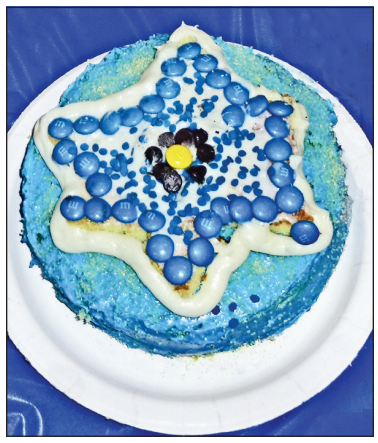
The winners, who received a Three Sisters T-shirt and gift certificate, were Julia Keizler, Elliana Chambers, Alena Wiebe and Abby Swartz of Team JEAA.

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



Zoey Joering, Ceci Williams and Gi Evangelista work on their cake.







PHOTOS | CYNTHIA BENJAMIN

The finished masterpieces!

thrive

www.thrive-ri.org

Thrive is a retreat center for the here and now, founded in Jewish wisdom and open to all. Co-founded in 2015 by Nicole Jellinek, Rabbi Barry Dolinger, and Rabbi Elan Babchuck, Thrive promotes well-being, better living, and deep engagement with tradition. We offer a variety of types of programs (learning, meditation, experiential education, ritual design), all of which are geared to make meaning and help you thrive!

Upcoming Events

Water Meditation with Jyoti Sharma
Wednesday, October 19, 7:30 - 9 pm

Poetry Night (with several local luminaries)
Monday, November 14, 7:30 - 9 pm

Pre-Thanksgiving Gratitude Walk
Sunday, November 20, 3 - 4:30 pm

Mindful Mondays lunchtime meditation
12 - 12:30 pm
9/12, 9/26, 10/11 (* TUES), 10/26 (*WED), 11/7, 11/21, 12/5, 12/19.

For location and registration, visit thrive-ri.org.
(Program scholarships available on a first-come, first-served basis)

Fall and the holidays are a good time to reflect on the cycle of life



EDITOR

FRAN OSTENDORF

I love this time of year. The holidays signal the change of seasons, as do warm days and cool nights. A certain rhythm returns to daily life after a summer filled with long days, vacations and all things outdoors.

At my house – maybe at yours as well – one of the outdoor activities is gardening. We are far from master gardeners. We dabble in gardening. It's a hobby, a sometime passion that we'd like to be more involved in but work often gets in the way.

I have friends who read seed catalogs each winter, looking forward to spring and planting. They do their research about trimming, planting, feeding and watering. They are a source of information and a resource for finding answers to questions about all things gardening. I admit to being a little bit envious of that knowledge and ability.

We try. But the bushes in the front of our home are slightly overgrown. It's hard to make that first cut on a thriving shrub, and what if you cut at the wrong time of year? We try to do research, but there are many conflicting answers to most of the questions. So we hesitate. And so it goes.

We have a couple of terraced planting areas that have hosted a variety of vegetable plants over the years. But without daily care, the weeds and squirrels take over. Or maybe a groundhog. Or a mole. Not really sure. And we don't want to kill the weeds with chemicals because we're growing food. Anyway, this year, we let those gardens go. Maybe next year there will be time to plant them the right way.

A couple of years ago, an overgrown area behind our house was cleared thanks to some utility work. It was a perfect spot for a wildflower garden, visible from all parts of the house and our two backyard decks. This became my husband's domain because, truth be told, I'm completely freaked out by ticks and the wildlife that lived in that overgrown space.

My husband worked all summer, doing his research, planting native plants, fighting the regrowth of unwanted plants. The flowers were beautiful.

The following year, there were weeds, but he got them under control by hand. Then, an unfortunate back problem made the garden off limits for my husband. And now that space is completely back to its original overgrown state, and the animals have returned too. Yes, there are a few more flowers that rise above the weeds. But, for the most part, you can't even tell that anyone had worked on the spot.

Now, we concentrate on containers. And that has been more successful. For us, containers are manageable. And the pleasure they brings knows no bounds. During a summer like the one we've just had, we've been a little more diligent than usual about watering. But we can handle that. I can even talk to the container gardens, which, I'm told, helps the plants grow better. And when I have my morning coffee surrounded by color, it brings a smile to my face and I feel content.

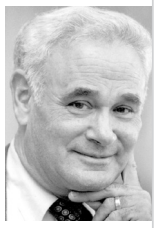
But now, during my favorite season, these blooms are fading. It's time to clean out these boxes and get ready for the colder weather. Nothing worse than seeing flower boxes with dead plants, right?

Perhaps this column should have been written in the spring. But it's nice to think about the flowers of the past summer and remember that it's a cycle, just like the cycle of the year.

This issue of The Jewish Voice features our fall home and garden section. It won't be too many months until we're thinking about our spring home and garden issue!

And speaking of yearly cycles, you've probably already noticed the 2016-2017 Guide to Jewish Living tucked into your paper. We hope you enjoy this annual publication. Soon, look for it online, where you can refer to it and learn about our advertisers year-round. And remember to visit these advertisers, use their services and products, and tell them you saw their ads in The Jewish Voice or on our website.

Goodness still beats in the human heart



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

During the 1980s, I served as a part-time instructor of Religious Studies at Connecticut College, in New London. Every other spring semester, I had the privilege of teaching a course on the Holocaust, which consistently drew many more students than the limit of 40 I had established. I continue to be gratified that so many young men and women – the majority of them not Jewish – chose to explore this dark and even frightening subject.

On the last day of class, I asked my students to write a sentence or two expressing what they felt they had learned from their studies. One of my students, a serious and sensitive young woman, wrote that the horrors of the Holocaust rendered the notion of love "ridiculous." What sticks with me almost 30 years after my student wrote those words is her emphatic linking of the noun "love" with the modifying adjective "ridiculous."

This young woman was by no means a cynical person; quite the contrary, she was exceptionally caring and compassionate, accepting without complaint the special responsibilities that fell upon her as the eldest child in a large family whose mother had died young. Despite her emotional maturity, she found it almost impossible – at least for a time – to affirm the possibility of enduring love in a world in which the Nazis came close to obliterating whatever goodness lay in the beating heart of humankind.

I would hope that the acts of sacrificial kindness portrayed in such films as "Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War," a recent documentary written and directed by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky, might demonstrate to my former student that even the Holocaust, in all of its unspeakable horror, does not and cannot render love "ridiculous." Readers of the article "New Ken Burns film spotlights little-known Holocaust rescuers," in the Sept. 2 issue of The Jewish Voice, might recall that this documentary "takes a highly personal look at the American Christian couple who left a quiet life in New England, traveled to Nazi-occupied Europe and smuggled hundreds of Jews to safety."

This couple, grandparents of co-writer and co-director Artemis Joukowsky, were Waitstill Sharp, a Unitarian minister, and his wife, Martha. In early February 1939, they left their two young children, Hastings and Martha Content, in Wellesley, Massachusetts, as they set out for a Europe on the brink of war.

Because I've seen the film online and have been given a copy of the script, I have been able to study "Defying the Nazis" line by line.

> **"I was beyond the pale of civilization. I owed no ethics to anybody. I owed no honesty to anybody at all if I could save imperiled human lives."**

Much of the text is taken from the letters and written recollections of Waitstill and Martha. Early in the documentary, we learn that on March 15, 1939, less than three weeks after the Sharps arrived in Prague, the Nazis invaded Czechoslovakia. Martha, voiced by Marina Goldman in the documentary, offers this report: "The night the Nazis invaded we found the furnace at the hotel Atlantic and began to destroy the documents we'd kept on our work. Even at four a.m. there was a queue of people all waiting their turn to approach the furnace. It was a silent line. From this night on, nobody could be trusted."

The story quickly develops a cloak-and-dagger urgency. The Sharps continually defy the Nazis with their courage and their cunning – shepherding hundreds of Jewish children from the claws of their Nazi tormentors, rescuing prominent Jewish intellectuals marked for death. Waitstill, voiced by Tom Hanks, explains why he is engaged in the illegal exchange of worthless local currency for U.S. dollars: "I knew it was illegal but I did it because I had no other choice. I was beyond the pale of civilization. I owed no ethics to anybody. I owed no honesty to anybody at all if I could save imperiled human lives."

The Sharps returned from Czechoslovakia in August 1939, but returned to Nazi-occupied Europe in June 1940, establishing their new base at the Hotel Metropole, in Lisbon, Portugal. During this second stay, Waitstill participated in an especially daring and dangerous operation; with the assistance of others in the resistance movements, he managed to bring a number of threatened Jewish intellectuals, including the German-Jewish writer Lion Feuchtwanger, from occupied France over the mountains to Spain and finally across the Atlantic to freedom in the United States.

In recognition of the Sharps' extraordinary efforts to save Jews from certain death at the hands of the Nazis, the State of Israel has recognized Waitstill Sharp and Martha Sharp as *Chasidei Umot Ha'olam*, the Righteous among the Nations, among Israel's most prestigious honors. Their names are now engraved at Yad Vashem, Israel's national Holocaust memorial. They are among only five Americans out of a total of 25,000 so recognized.

At a 2006 ceremony honoring her deceased parents, Martha Content Sharp spoke these words of praise: "They were modest and ordinary people. They responded to the suffering and needs around them as they would have expected everyone to do in a similar situation. They never viewed what they did as extraordinary."

"Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War" premiered on Sept. 20 on several PBS stations, including Boston's WGBH, Channel 2. The film appeared on Rhode Island's PBS station, Channel 36, on Sept. 27. For those of you who missed those showings, be sure to see the documentary when it returns to PBS as an encore. The selfless actions of Waitstill and Martha Sharp in their war against the Nazis signal to our weary world that determined and dedicated private citizens can shine the light of love into even the darkest of nights; their deeds testify to the enduring goodness that beats in the human heart.

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).

ADL strategies for staying safe during the High Holy Days... and all year long

BY DANIEL E. LEVENSON

The High Holy Days are a time for family and celebration, for joyous moments and quiet reflection. While most who attend events and services will be focused on the holidays themselves, this is also a good time to reassess security procedures in synagogues and other Jewish institutions.

No Jewish community can afford to ignore the impact of anti-Semitism or the potential for anti-Semitic violence and vandalism. In the last year alone, ADL New England has responded to a number of troubling incidents impacting Jewish communities in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, including vandalism at three synagogues in the span of one week.

Since our founding in 1913, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has been helping Jewish institutions improve security by offering a range of resources and training opportunities. With this in mind, here are a few best practices to help keep Jewish communities safe this High Holy Day season and beyond:

Develop a security plan: Create a plan that's easy to follow and easy to remember so that ushers and staff will know how to respond in the event of a security problem. Regularly review these plans with staff and lay leadership to ensure that each person is familiar with your institution's protocols and their individual role in case of an emergency.

Establish easy-to-follow building-access policies: Be aware of who's coming and going – few people would leave their homes open and unattended, and the same should apply to Jewish institutions. Limiting the number of entrances is also a good idea and it helps to ensure that everyone who comes into the building will be greeted and seen. Surveillance cameras, well-placed lighting and an alarm system can serve as deterrents and demonstrate your commitment to providing a safe and secure environment.

Keep an eye out for suspicious activity: Quickly report any concerns to security personnel or the police. Ushers and others helping to run your High Holy Day events know your building and community and are therefore most likely to spot something "out of place." The ADL's "Guide to Detecting Surveillance of Jewish Institutions" is a great resource (online at adl.org/security) to share with staff and lay leaders. Remember to trust your instincts – if something seems "wrong" or "out of place," err on the side of caution and report it to the appropriate authorities.

Take online security seriously: When it comes to publishing calendars, photos or contact information for individuals online, protecting your privacy and your data should be taken into consideration. ADL's community security website also offers guidelines for digital and online security, including ways to protect the privacy of individuals and how to respond to threatening emails and hacking incidents.

Establish a good relationship with your local police department: This should be a top priority – after all, it's always better to establish a relationship with the people you need before you need them. By reaching out, you'll get to know the people who keep your community safe and have an opportunity to inform them about your High Holy Day schedule and events. For community leaders who would like assistance in reaching out to their local police department, ADL can help make these connections.

Finally, security does not start and end with the High Holy Days – it should be a year-round effort that engages all members of the community.

Occasionally, we hear concerns from synagogue leaders that increased security may be off-putting to some. However, given today's climate, ignoring the threats that exist to religious institutions is simply not an option. Taking action to better secure your Jewish institution sends a clear and powerful message that community leaders take the safety of their members seriously.

By establishing clear internal procedures, developing a strong relationship with local law enforcement, and increasing awareness of who is coming and going from the building, Jewish institutions can strike a balance that will allow these spaces and events to be both welcoming and secure.

DANIEL E. LEVENSON is associate regional director of ADL New England. To report an anti-Semitic or hate incident, go to adl.org/incident. For more information on Jewish Communal Security in the New England Region, contact ADL New England at 617-406-6382.

Jewish pride on campus is under siege. Here's what your kids can do

BY ARNOLD M. EISEN

NEW YORK (JTA) – Over 300,000 Jewish college students have arrived on American campuses – and what they experience there is likely not only to broaden their minds and uproot long-held assumptions, but shake their Jewish selves to the core.

They will contend with powerful faculty and student voices accusing them of complicity in a regime of privilege and oppression here in America and of colonialism, genocide and apartheid in Israel.

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and its campus allies have had little impact thus far either on the investments made by universities or the policies of the governments of Israel or the United States. They are, however, diverting enormous time and resources from important work of Jewish education and community building. No less important, they are causing untold numbers of students to keep their heads down where Israel – and Judaism – are concerned, and to feel ashamed when they have every reason to be proud.

I am not afraid that Jews or other college students will fall for the "Big Lie about Israel." The world is a dangerous mess right now, nowhere more than in the Middle East. Simplistic narratives of good and evil like those propounded by the BDS movement are unlikely to prove persuasive to anyone who reads up on the matter or exercises his mind.

But I do fear growing doubt among some Jewish undergraduates that the Jewish community and tradition are worthy of their involvement and commitment. I worry about increased suspicion – thanks in part to language endorsing BDS positions in the platform released by a coalition affiliated with the Black Lives Matter movement – that students can stand up for justice as Jews, and can fight mass incarceration and racism as supporters of Israel. I want all to know that they can and should maintain deep ties to the Jewish community and tradition at the same time as they claim membership in larger communities and work alongside others for universal causes of justice and peace.

My message to students, this fall in particular, is this: Have pride in your Judaism. Learn about its history and Israel's. Keep your minds and hearts open. Maintain the moral courage to reject claims that Israel practices apartheid and genocide – because they are unequivocally false. Work to create spaces on campus where one can openly, and lovingly, question choices and actions made by Israel's leadership, and America's, without giving up attachment to either. As Jews, we must stand beside those fighting against inequality and injustice, and should do so regardless of the incorrect views that others hold of Judaism and Israel.

As a committed Jew, I am commanded to have unceasing concern for both Jewish learning and the struggle for justice. That same passion attracts me to the State of Israel, which I view as an attempt to translate age-old Jewish values into policy. This attempt, which will always fall far short of perfection, deserves our enduring support – and, when necessary, our critique. Like any nation, Israel requires such challenge and correction if it is to remain true to its founding ideals. Israel has a lot to figure out, many wrongs to make right, incredible achievements on which to build, deep-seated currents of bigotry to overcome, a proud tradition of democracy (the only one in the Middle East) to develop, and the hopes of many millions and many centuries that it dare not betray.

But history shows that whenever people say that Jews (or any other group) are largely to blame for significant portions of the world's ills, or that things would be perfect if only Jews stopped insisting that we, too, have a right to live in the world, or that the Jewish state, or the Jewish community, has no right to exist unless it conforms to allegedly "universal" ideals demanded of no other people as a condition of legitimate survival – something is dangerously wrong. That point of view, which sadly has a long history behind it, must be resisted.

Though they will hear its rhetoric and see its demonstrations, few students will ever visit the BDS website, where one learns that the movement is avowedly part of the Palestinian national struggle against the very existence of the State of Israel. BDS materials say nary a word about the partial responsibility of the corrupt Palestinian government in the West Bank or the murderous Hamas regime in Gaza for the failure of the peace process thus far. One hears a great deal from BDS and affiliated groups like Jewish Voice for Peace about Jewish and Israeli culpability – but nothing about mistakes made on the Palestinian side, oppression committed by it, the blatant anti-Semitism built into its policies and publications. BDS is silent about the many countries that are guilty of abuses far worse than those charged to Israel.

Much of the Middle East is in flames. The Syrian death toll has passed 400,000. And not a single Middle Eastern society guarantees equality and justice for all its citizens – women and men, Christian and Muslim – to anything like the degree that Israel does, however imperfectly.

As we approach Rosh Hashanah, my hope for the new year is that no Jewish students leave Judaism behind in the name of universal ideals – or leave Israel behind in the name of Judaism. The world desperately needs the skills and knowledge they will acquire on campus. Judaism needs their passion, perspectives and engagement. Israel needs their voices, proud and strong.

ARNOLD M. EISEN is the chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary.

LETTER

Re: Interfaith Families (Sept. 16)

Thank you. Thank for publishing the article by Rabbi Melinda Mersack describing how she values interfaith families as part of the Jewish community. It was not so many years ago that a letter to the editor asked why you would choose to recognize interfaith marriages in the Simchas section. That letter made me very angry. I am fortunate to live in the Newport Jewish community, which has always been welcoming to my husband and our family.

Instead of writing to The Voice in response to that previous letter to explain that my joyous interfaith marriage brought two Jewish children into the world who were very well educated at Touro Synagogue and are now living productive lives as young adults, I write today with tears of joy to thank you and Rabbi Mersack.

Rabbi Mersack's article warmed me and touched me more than I could have imagined. Thank you.

L'shana tovah,
Laura Freedman Pedrick
Newport

Do not fear to acknowledge the best and the brightest; they are our future



RABBI RICHARD PERLMAN

Do you remember the commercial where a father and his son are walking back to their car after a football game? It is the one where the son's team has just won the championship. It is the one where the dad sees that his son's trophy has a label that says "Participant." It is the one where the father thinks to himself, "But they won! They won every game! They're the champions!" So he peels off the participant label on the kid's trophy and, in its place, he writes "Champs."

According to the people who test advertising effectiveness, this commercial has turned out to be one of the most popular of those on the air. Perhaps it is because it flies in the face of our over-the-top politically correct culture. It challenges those who are afraid of rewarding the few at the expense of the many. It challenges those of us who go out of our way to never make anyone feel bad. It challenges those who believe that we do not play sports to win or lose but rather to do our best.

The people who made this commercial are saying that this point of view is nonsense. What is sports about if we do not work hard to win? That ad wants us to know that competing to win is the best way to try to improve ourselves.

That is one point of view, but there is clearly a debate going on about this. One argument is that we want every child to feel good and special and to be rewarded for his or her efforts. The other argument is that those who excel should receive greater rewards for their successes. Both arguments have merit; is one more correct than the other?

"... if we are looking for what we think is fair, we will be very disappointed."

Our Torah offers a very interesting Jewish point of view on this subject in telling what happened when Yitzchak was in his last days of life. He wanted to give his blessing to his first-born son, Esav. To prepare for this reward, Esav went out to hunt for his father's favorite meal. When he returned, Yitzchak would bless him.

But Rivka, Yitzchak's wife and the mother of the twin boys Esav and Yaakov, had a different idea. Where did she get this idea? It seems that God had told her that Yaakov should receive the blessing in order to carry on the Covenant that God had made with Avraham.

What did Rivka do? She helped Yaakov dress up as Esav in order to trick Yitzchak into giving Esav's blessing to Yaakov. As we know, the plan worked.

But soon thereafter, Esav returned with Yitzchak's favorite meal and Yitzchak trembled, realizing he had made an error because of trickery. It is with this realization that we hear Esav cry out, "Don't you also have a blessing for me, too, Father?"

It is hard to miss the great sympathy the Torah had for Esav at that moment. On the other hand, the Torah makes it crystal clear that Esav was not the right person to be charged with protecting the future of God's Covenant. Esav is described as a person who, while talented in one area, did not have God at his center as did Yaakov. Esav did not prioritize as did Yaakov. Esav clearly had the brawn, while his twin brother had the brains. They both had heart, but Esav's focus was completely on himself, while Yaakov lived his life for others. Even so, the Torah wants us to know that Esav was a human being with feelings; a person who God also cared about.

Most of us feel Esav got a raw deal. Esav must have thought his parents loved Yaakov more. We cannot help but feel a bit sorry for him when Esav asks Yitzchak, "Don't you have a blessing for me, too?" It is as if he is saying, "My brother may be smarter or better looking or more charming, but I need attention, too. I am somebody, you know!"

The most important lesson we should get from this is that, if we are looking for what we think is fair, we will be very disappointed. One thing we must all learn is that there is no such thing as fair anywhere in the pages of the TANAKH. The TANAKH declares that the winner has the right to take all when God is concerned.

While there is no such thing as fair, the Torah is telling us that ambition is good, as long as God's big picture remains in focus. The ones who are the best innovators, who follow their curiosity and intellect, who are willing to fight to be leaders, those will be the winners. The Torah teaches us that every society needs those kinds of people. It is the best and the brightest who will lead us into the future. That is why that father and son commercial is so powerful. It is telling us that, like Rivka, we must help our children unlock their promise and their potential so that they will succeed in their future. Teaching children to ask, "What about me?" is teaching them to be like everyone else; to blend in. This is the opposite of what our Torah is teaching us.

There is no question that each person is important in ways that others might not be. That is why each person, regardless of age, should be nurtured and encouraged and supported to achieve beyond what he or she believes is his or her best. Striving to do one's best turns out to be self-limiting; striving to be the best opens up so many more avenues for great achievement, regardless of age.

That is why Esav's question tears at our hearts. "Dad, do you only have one blessing?" The answer proved to be, "Of course I also have a blessing for you. It is a special blessing so that you will achieve great things as well."

The lesson is clear. It is not so horrible to give every kid a trophy. It is horrible, however, to not make sure the trophies are appropriate for every kid. The champs should get trophies that reward their accomplishments just as those who participated should be acknowledged. This is a very important distinction.

As a parent of more than one child, I often asked myself how to treat each child equally. According to our Torah reading, the answer is simple: we cannot and we should not even try. Each child has a different personality, a different potential, a different set of talents and abilities. That is why each child needs a different approach. We all know that this is not easy, but, according to the Torah, it is the right thing to do.

Yes, Yitzchak does bless Esav, but, unlike Yaakov, Esav was never destined to become Yisrael. On the other hand, Esav became a great leader in his own right, and the ancestor of a strong and powerful kingdom.

Just as God had two very different plans for Esav and Yaakov, so does God have plans for everyone, including you and me. God breathed life into each of us for a reason. While we may never know our individual purpose, we should always thank God for giving us the greatest reward of all, the opportunity to live and to love and to know each other.

As we celebrate the High Holy Days, the Days of Awe, may this new year bring us all blessings from God. May we bless each other as we support each other in performing many acts of kindness. May we be honest and compassionate. May we make this a better world by being nice to each other. What better blessing could any of us have?

As I write this final *d'var Torah*, my wife Kit and I have moved to our new home in Massachusetts. It has been, and will always be, a privilege and an honor to have served the Rhode Island community for so many years. We will miss so many of you, we appreciate your support, your friendship, your blessings and the love that we shared together. We ask God to bless you all in the new year as we wish you a *shanah tovah tikatevu* (a sweet and blessed New Year).

RICHARD E. PERLMAN is the rabbi at Temple Ner Tamid, in Peabody, Massachusetts.

BELONGING



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Ongoing

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

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

Through October 27

Three Artists. Gallery at Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. More than 30 works by three artists working in very different media. Each is a master of the complex, yet the message is in the understatement. Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment. Information, 401-245-6536 or email to gallery@templehabonim.org.

Friday | September 30

The Early Bird Gets the Worm. 6:15-6:40 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. 9/30 – 12/16. No class: 10/7, 10/21, 11/25, 12/2. Explore ethical and spiritual themes in the upcoming week's Torah reading using the popular series "Imrei Baruch" by noted RIETS Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Baruch Simon. A great way to study the weekly parashah. Attend Shacharit at 6:45 a.m. and go into Shabbat prepared. Held in the Beit Midrash (chapel) with Rabbi Barry Dolinger. Information, contact office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Saturday | October 1

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

Sunday | October 2

Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner. 7:15 p.m. URI Hillel, 6 Fraternity Circle, Kingston. Dinner follows 6 p.m. services. Dinner reservations required. Dinner is free for students; $15 for nonstudents. www.urihillel.org to make reservations. Information, contact Yaniv Havusha at yaniv_havusha@uri.edu or 401-874-2740.

Monday | October 3

Project Shoresh High Holidays Learner's Program Oct. 3, 4, 11 & 12. 450 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. This program is shorter than many other High Holy Day programs and enables participants to understand services and what the day means. They can reflect on a year gone by and look forward to new challenges. Small donation suggested. Information or to RSVP (required), contact Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or 401-429-8244.

Wednesday | October 5

Teen Israel Arts Contest Submission Deadline. Dwares JCC. Teens in grades 9-12 are invited to submit an essay, video, piece of art, dance routine, music, etc. responding to the prompt: "I love Israel because...." Top prize: two free airfare tickets from Boston to Tel Aviv courtesy of EL AL Israel Airlines. Award presentation and exhibition on Dec. 13. For guidelines and information, contact Jana Brenman at 401-421-4111, ext. 181, or jbrenman@jewishallianceri.org.

Thursday | October 6

"The Consul of Bordeaux." A film presented by Bristol Community College LusoCentro & Bristol Community College Holocaust Center. 7-9 p.m. Jackson Arts Center, Bristol Community College, 777 Elsbree St., Fall River, Mass. Aristides de Sousa Mendes, Portuguese General Consul stationed in Bordeaux, France, saved 30,000 lives by issuing visas for safe passage into Portugal during WWII. Dr. Claire Andrade-Watkins, Emerson College, will be presenting and discussing the film. Free admission. Open to the public. Information, contact Dr. Ron Weisberger, BCC Holocaust Center, at 508-678-2811, ext. 2444, or ron.weisberger@bristolcc.edu.

Saturday | October 8

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

Shabbat Shuva D'rasha. 4:30 p.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. The Goat of T'Shuva Past with Rabbi Barry Dolinger. Mincha 5:40 p.m., Ma'ariv following. Information, contact office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Sunday | October 9

Sunday Mornings OROT. 8:45-9:45 a.m., following Shacharit at 8 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Study Rav Kook's revolutionary seminal work, a collection of challenging and moving essays describing the religious significance of Zionism. 10/9-12/18. No class: 10/23, 11/27, 12/4. Information, contact office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Sundays SERENITY. 9:45-10:30 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Meditation instruction for all levels. Open to those who have never meditated or are regular practitioners. Engage in mindfulness practice to increase awareness, compassion and inner calm while reducing stress and anxiety. Classes, led by Rabbi Dolinger, will be held in Beit Midrash (chapel). 10/9 -12/18. No class: 10/23, 11/27, 12/04. First class is sponsored by CBS, Thrive and Judy's Kindness Kitchen. Information, contact office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Shofar Factory. 10 a.m. Chabad of West Bay, 3871 Post Road, Warwick. Fashion your own shofar from a real animal horn as you learn the entire process from the cooking to the final polishing. Admission $2 and $8 per shofar. Open to the public. Space is limited. RSVP required. Information and reservations, contact rabbi@RabbiWarwick.com or 401-884-7888.

Pre-Sukkot Family Funday. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Join Project Shoresh and PJ Library for Sukkot-themed snacks and activities including an edible sukkah. Parents can listen to a short discussion about the holiday while kids enjoy a PJ Library story. $5 per family. Information, contact Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or 401-429-8244.

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

Saturday | October 15

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

Sunday | October 16

Bagel Brunch. 12-1 p.m. URI Hillel, 6 Fraternity Circle, Kingston. Bagel brunch featuring eggs, coffee and more. Free for students; $15 for community members. Information, contact Yaniv Havusha at yaniv_havusha@uri.edu or 401-874-2740.

Sukkot Celebration: Sukkah Decorating and K'Tantan Shabbat. 5:15-7 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Celebrate Sukkot with children, and help decorate the sukkah. Share joyful singing and community dinner. All are welcome. Information, contact temple-beth-el.org or 401-331-6070.

Wednesday | October 19

Annual Conference of Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light. 5:30-8 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light annual conference. Participants gather in the biblical garden at 5:30 p.m. to enjoy a light dinner. At 6 p.m., participants move to the meeting hall to hear a panel of speakers address the call to care for Creation from the perspectives of different faith traditions: Rabbi Jeff Goldwasser of Temple Sinai; Mufti Ikram Ul Haq, resident scholar and Imam at Masjid Al Islam; and Patrick Carolan, co-founder of the Global Catholic Climate Movement will engage conference participants in shared learning and dialogue. Conference participants will also have the opportunity to learn from the solar installation experience of Westminster Unitarian Church, when congregation member Robert Tyce, a retired professor of engineering at URI, delivers brief remarks to highlight how Westminster's solar energy program will pay for itself in six years. People's Power & Light will "green" the event by matching the electricity used with 100% wind power. A $35 fee is requested. Scholarships are available. Arrive by 6 p.m. as latecomers are not guaranteed entrance after the presentation has begun. Information, email donna@ri-ipl.org.

Thursday | October 20

Tamarisk Open House. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. Refreshments in the sukkah. Tour the beautiful grounds, view one of the apartments, and see why residents are fulfilled and love living at Tamarisk. Call Susan Adler, marketing and outreach director, at 401-732-0037 or email at SusanA@tamariskri.org for questions or a personal tour.

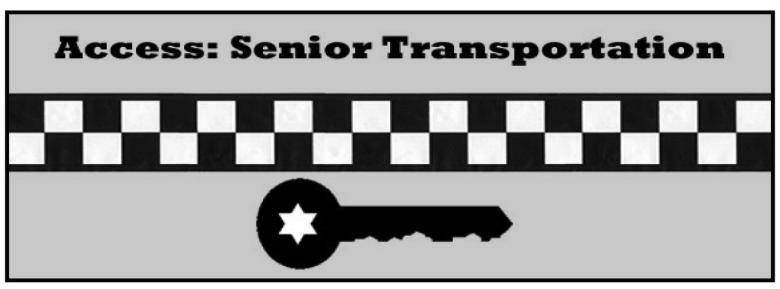
Traces of Memory: A Contemporary Look at the Jewish Past in Poland. 7-8:30 p.m. Brown RISD Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence. From the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow, Poland, this inaugural exhibition of the updated "Traces of Memory" collection offers a contemporary look at Jewish Poland, reflecting issues and processes rooted in the past, but influencing the present and the future. The official opening features remarks by Adam Teller, associate professor of History and Judaic Studies at Brown. Information, contact Marshall Einhorn at marshall_einhorn@brown.edu or 401-863-2805.

Friday | October 21

PJ Library Story Time: Sukkot. 10-11 a.m. Dwares JCC. Spend some time in the sukkah with guest reader Jo-Anne DeGiacomo Petrie, director of the David C. Isenberg Family Early Childhood Center and director of lower J-Camp. Children ages 5 and under are invited to hear stories, play games, make a craft, have a snack, and make new friends. Free. Information, contact Ruth Horton at rhorton@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 117.

New Member and Family Sukkot/Shabbat Dinner. 5-8 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Join us for Shabbat in the sukkah. Sangria and appetizers, dinner and service. New member families free; members: adults $18, children $10; maximum family price $50. Information, temple-beth-el.org or 401-331-6070.

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Access Jewish Rhode Island

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Access: Senior Transportation is a Living on the Edge initiative

Susie Fishbein says goodbye to her iconic 'Kosher by Design' series

BY LISA COHEN BLATTER

JTA – When Susie Fishbein wrote her first "Kosher by Design" cookbook nearly 15 years ago, she saw an opening in the market for a book in the style of mainstream cooks like Ina Garten and Martha Stewart.

"Those were my idols," she told JTA.

As such, Fishbein dreamed of writing a Kosher cookbook that featured recipes beyond potato kugel and chicken soup. Just as important, the book would set a high bar for food styling and attractive design.

"The Kosher cook does a Thanksgiving-style meal every Friday night," she said, noting it was something she had long taken pride in doing. "I've always loved to cook, entertain and make things look pretty. My thinking was, if I can do it my kitchen, you can do it in yours."

"Kosher by Design" was published in 2003, and it took the Kosher food world by storm. In the first few weeks, over 27,000 copies were sold. Two weeks after its release, the book went into its second printing.

But now, after nine "Kosher by Design" books – including "Kosher by Design: Kids in the Kitchen" and "Passover by Design" – Fishbein is calling it quits. Her final installment, "Kosher by Design: Brings it Home," was published earlier this year.

It's hard to overstate what an outsize presence Fishbein has had in the Kosher world since her debut.

"Susie is a dynamo in the Kosher community," said Jamie Geller, founder of JoyofKosher.com and the magazine of the same name. "She is an inspiration to all who love to cook and those who enjoy delicious home-cooked meals."

Many recipes from the first "Kosher by Design" book have become staples in Kosher homes – dishes like challah napkin rings, tri-color gefilte fish and Oriental spinach salad are part of the Friday night repertoire in many homes.

"When I go to shows and people bring old books to get signed, the pages of this book are filthy, torn, dog-eared … very much loved," Fishbein said.

Gedaliah Zlotowitz, vice president of sales and marketing at ArtScroll, the Jewish book publisher that publishes the series, calls Fishbein "cutting edge."

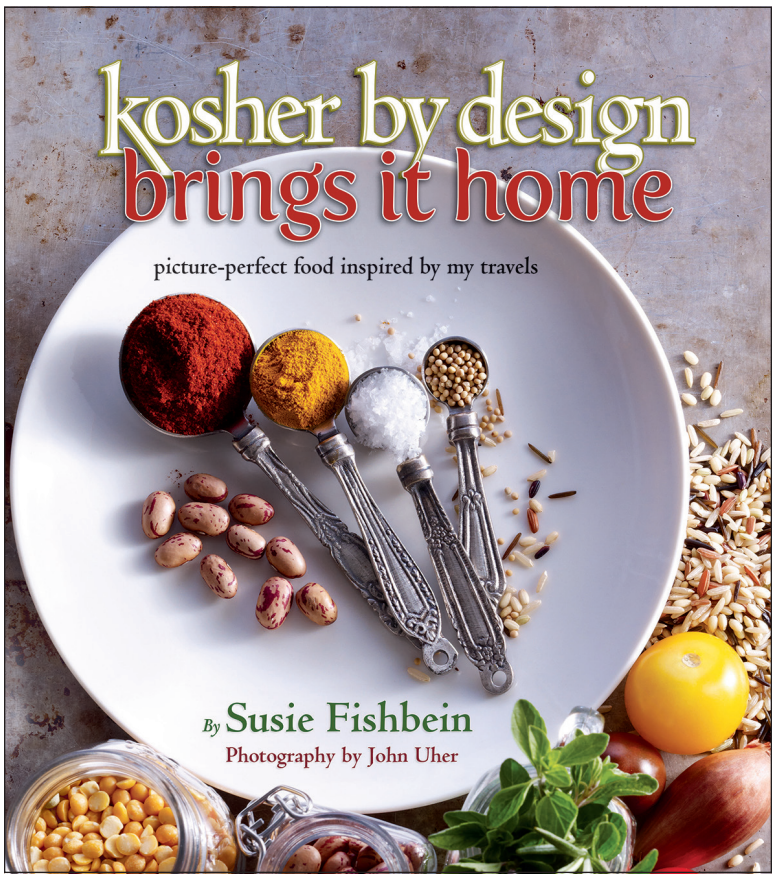
"She was using new ingredients and staying on top of trends in the market," Zlotowitz said. "The photos were beautiful, too, and we had a photo for every recipe. She made people proud to keep Kosher, which really hit home with us."

Though she wasn't trained as a chef, Fishbein, 48, was once a teacher – and that's a skill that has lent itself to cookbook writing, she explained. (Almost all the recipes have detailed stories and descriptions.)

And she wasn't a total novice when she signed the "Kosher by Design" deal with ArtScroll. Fishbein, 48, who lives in Livingston, New Jersey, had compiled and edited a successful collection of recipes, "The Kosher Palette," as a fundraiser for the local Jewish day school.

But Fishbein's timing for "Kosher By Design" couldn't have been better, partly because more Kosher ingredients were becoming widely available and partly because Kosher cooks were looking to expand their repertoires.

The first "Kosher by Design" book sold over 110,000 copies, "way beyond what we could have even imagined," Zlotowitz says. Eight more books have followed, including "Short on Time" – the second-most popular in the series, which sold over 75,000 copies.



Susie Fishbein published her final book in the series, "Kosher by Design: Brings it Home," earlier this year.

"I couldn't write them fast enough," Fishbein said.

Fishbein has become something of a Kosher food world celebrity, traveling all over the world to give cooking demonstrations. And these travels have served as inspiration for her latest cookbook, which includes dishes from France, Italy, Mexico and Israel.

Recipes include Tuscan bean and farro soup, which she learned to make in Italy; Provencal wheatberry salad and mujadarra, a Middle Eastern rice and lentil dish.

Fishbein says that in the years since she started her series, the Kosher food world has changed immensely.

"Even more international ingredients have become readily available Kosher," she said. "People travel a lot; the level of expectation at Kosher restaurants is higher. There are some truly unbelievable Kosher caterers out there, too."

And her cooking style has changed, too. In the beginning, "I was holding on to puff pastry with both hands," she joked. Now, however, Fishbein stays away from more processed foods.

"It wasn't until making this my career, and bringing it to the front lobe of my brain, that my cooking became more sophisticated and health conscious," she noted.

But something else changed during that time: the Kosher cookbook world.

"The market has become saturated; and that's really to her credit," Zlotowitz said.

"I don't want ArtScroll to put in a tremendous amount of money without knowing that they'll make their money back," Fishbein said of her decision to retire the line.

Moreover, the world of books – and media in general – has changed dramatically since 2003.

"It used to be a guarantee that these cookbooks would fly off the shelves, but the business has gotten much more digital,"Fishbein explained.

"It's like, you know you're a successful parent when you send your kids out and they do well on their own. That's how I feel. I want to go out on a high, and this series – and my publisher – deserves it."

While she may be done with cookbooks, Fishbein is not finished with Kosher food. She says she'll be focusing instead on cooking appearances and teaching classes, as well as writing a column for Mishpacha magazine for which she tries out new gadgets (most recently a *sous-vide* machine she's "totally hooked on").

Fishbein is even exploring doing a prepared food line – like those of aforementioned culinary idols Garten and Stewart – but says it's still in the beginning stages.

"A lot of women at my shows ask how to turn their hobbies and interest into careers, and I say they have to take themselves seriously, to set aside time and focus, and treat them like a business," Fishbein said. "I always did that."

In Fishbein's case, her efforts paid off.

"I hear all the time that we rocked the Kosher world," she said.



PHOTO | BEA ROSS

Food drive preparations

Recently, representatives from the three religious groups on Aquidneck Island, the Newport Havurah, Temple Shalom and Touro Synagogue, prepared the shopping bags for the annual community High Holiday food drive.

The bags will be distributed and collected at each house of worship during the High Holy Days. Food collected is split between the Louis & Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry in Providence and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center in Newport.

Pictured are (left to right): Scott Brandon, Gaby Brandon, Howard Newman, Leslie Saunders, David Nathanson, Rabbi Marc Mandel, Jeannine Wright, Irene Glasser, Mary Newman and Linda Nathanson.

You can try these 'Kosher by Design' recipes at home

Here are a few recipes from Susie Fishbein's final book in the "Kosher by Design Series." Published earlier this year in "Kosher by Design: Brings it Home" these recipes promise the same quality of other recipes in the series. Enjoy!



Pumpkin Braised Short Ribs



Root Vegetable Apple Salad

Root Vegetable Apple Salad

Dairy or Pareve

Yields 6-8 servings

Kohlrabi is a knobby purple or green vegetable with a taste and texture somewhere between cabbage and broccoli stems. They were all over Machane Yehuda market when I was there in February, and I knew I wanted to include them somewhere in this book. Cut off the leaves and use a vegetable peeler to remove the thick green skin.

Celery root is another ugly duckling at the produce department but once you trim off both ends and cut away or peel off the thick skin, you will love the distinctive flavor – think: combination of celery and parsley. I turn to it again and again for cooking in creamy soups, roasting as a side dish, or crisp and raw in salads like this one.

This recipe was inspired by Ali Mafucci, of the Inspiralized website, which is a great website for recipes that use a Spiralizer, or spiral slicer.

The apples work great on that machine and add a fun texture to the salad. If prepping in advance, soak the peeled vegetables and apple in water with some lemon juice added. This acidulated water will keep everything from turning brown.

Ingredients

Salad

1 small kohlrabi, peeled and trimmed

1/2 celery root (celeriac), peeled and trimmed

1 small turnip, peeled and trimmed

1 Granny Smith apple, not peeled

2 handfuls baby arugula leaves

Handful sweetened dried cranberries

Handful chopped walnuts

1/4 cup crumbled goat cheese, optional, for dairy meals

Dressing

1/4 cup honey

2 tablespoons red wine vinegar

2 tablespoons Country Dijon mustard

6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1/4 teaspoon fine sea salt

1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Method

Cut the kohlrabi and celery root into thin matchsticks. Grate the turnip on the large holes of a box grater. Cut the apple into small chunks or use a spiral slicer to make it into "noodles." Place into a large mixing bowl.

Toss with the arugula. Sprinkle in cranberries, walnuts, and cheese, if using.

Prepare the dressing: In a medium bowl, whisk together the honey, vinegar, mustard, oil, salt, and pepper.

Dress the salad to taste.

Pumpkin Braised Short Ribs

Meat

Yields 5-6 servings

If autumn had a celebrity dish, this would be it. These short ribs will be the reason your *sukkah* or Thanksgiving table is the place to be. The long, slow cooking time yields rich, succulent results.

If the ribs don't come tied, you can use kitchen twine or silicone bands. It's just for prettier presentation so that they don't fall off the bone.

Ingredients

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon ground sage

1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt

1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

6 pounds (10-12 large ribs, each 4 x 2 inches) thick short ribs, each tied

2 tablespoons canola oil

1 onion, peeled, cut into 1/2-inch dice

24 ounces (2 [12-ounce] bottles) pumpkin ale or other beer

1 1/2 cups or 1 (15-ounce) can canned pure pumpkin, NOT pumpkin pie filling

2 tablespoons tomato paste

2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

2 tablespoons whole grain mustard

2 tablespoons seasoned rice vinegar

2 tablespoons dark molasses

3 cups chopped curly kale

Method

Combine the flour, sage, salt, and pepper in a shallow dish or tin. Coat the ribs on all sides with the seasoned flour. Shake off excess.

Heat a large Dutch oven over high heat for 3 minutes. Add the canola oil; wait a minute or two, until the pan is very hot and almost smoking. Place the short ribs into the pan; sear until they are nicely browned on all three meaty sides. You will have to sear the meat in batches. Do not crowd the pot. Be patient; allow 4-5 minutes per side. When the ribs are nicely browned, transfer them to a plate to rest.

Reduce heat to medium; add the onion. Stir with a wooden spoon, scraping up all the browned bits in the pan. Cook 3-4 minutes, until the onion just starts to soften. Add 12 ounces of beer. Stir. Add the pumpkin. Stir in the tomato paste, Dijon mustard, whole grain mustard, vinegar, and molasses. Mix well. Bring sauce to a boil.

Return ribs to the pot. Stand them up if needed to fit all. Add the remaining 12 ounces of beer to almost cover the ribs. Add as much of the chopped kale as fits. Cover the pot. Simmer on low for 3 hours.

Transfer the ribs to a large platter. Spoon lots of braising juices over the ribs.

Almond Chocolate Chip Sticks

Pareve

Yields 20-25 cookies

The recipe for chocolate chip sticks in the Kosher Palette cookbook became a standard in thousands of homes. Somehow, they came out differently for all bakers, with my friend Marisa's being my favorite. This year for Passover, I tinkered with the recipe to use it on the holiday and my family declared that the cookies were so great, I "ended the suffering of the Jews." I was so pleased to cut out white flour, that I have started making them this way all year round. Gluten-free people, rejoice!

These cookies get a bit softer overnight. If you don't like that texture, store them in the freezer.

Ingredients

1/2 cup canola or vegetable oil

1/2 cup sugar

1/2 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar

1 large egg, lightly beaten

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

1 cup plus 2 tablespoons (5-ounces) quinoa flour

1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons (2-ounces) finely ground almond flour

2 tablespoons potato starch

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 cup good-quality chocolate chips

Method

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line a large cookie sheet with parchment paper. Set aside.

In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, combine the oil, sugar and brown sugar. Mix well. Stir in the egg and vanilla.

In a medium bowl, combine the quinoa flour, almond flour, potato starch, baking soda and salt. Stir into the egg mixture. Blend well. Mix in the chocolate chips.

Divide the dough in half. Place on the prepared sheet. Form the dough into 2 (3 x 12-inch) logs. Wet your hands if needed to manipulate the dough.

Bake for 22 minutes or until golden brown. Cool; cut while slightly warm into thin sticks.

Store in an airtight container.



Almond Chocolate Chip Sticks

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United Brothers Synagogue announces new spiritual leader

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN



Daniel Kertzner

United Brothers Synagogue has named Daniel Kertzner its new spiritual leader.

In addition to leading High Holy Day services, Kertzner will lead regular services once a month at the Bristol synagogue. He will also continue to work full-time at the Rhode Island Foundation.

The position became available when Rabbi Carol Gladstein left the synagogue in June. Kertzner started in his new job in August.

As an active member of Providence's Temple Beth-El, Kertzner has assisted with leading services in the past, including giving the *d'var Torah* and singing in the choir during High Holy Days. He has also officiated at two independent B'nai Mitzvot.

Kertzner says he is excited to join the United Brothers community and about the opportunities the position will bring.

"They've got a great community there already," says Kertzner. "[And I'm thinking] 'how can I enhance this?' "

A native of Bay Shore, New York, on Long Island, Kertzner moved to Providence in 1980 to attend Brown University, where he earned a bachelor of arts in organizational behavior and management.

During his early days in Rhode Island, he worked in several of the early education programs at the Jewish Community Center, in Providence.

Now the senior philanthropic advisor at the Rhode Island Foundation, he has worked in different capacities within the field of philanthropy for the past 15 years. He has served on Temple Beth-El's board of trustees and has chaired the Social Action Committee since 2002.

In addition to his philanthropic side, Kertzner has a musical side. Besides singing in Beth-El's choir, he has sung with an interfaith choir called RPM – Reaching People through Music – Voices. The choir's mission statement, according to its website, is to "create a musical space for all voices to participate in the African-American choral tradition."

While Kertzner says music is definitely a fun part of being a spiritual leader, it's not all of it.

Kertzner says he will also use his storytelling skills on the job and hopes to give congregants "a meaningful worship experience that's relevant and draws people in."

He continues, "I hope to bring them a service that's engaging and inclusive, and that helps bedrock themes of Judaism come more alive."

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

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IFCJ, JDC to distribute $52M in aid to Jews in former Soviet Union

JTA – The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews has pledged $52 million to provide food and medicine to elderly Jews living in the former Soviet Union through the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

The Food and Medicine Lifeline, a four-year, $13 million per year commitment, was announced Sept. 26 by the IFCJ. Many of the tens of thousands of recipients of the aid are elderly and impoverished Holocaust survivors, according to the IFCJ.

The assistance will be delivered through the JDC's local network of humanitarian services throughout the states of the former Soviet Union.

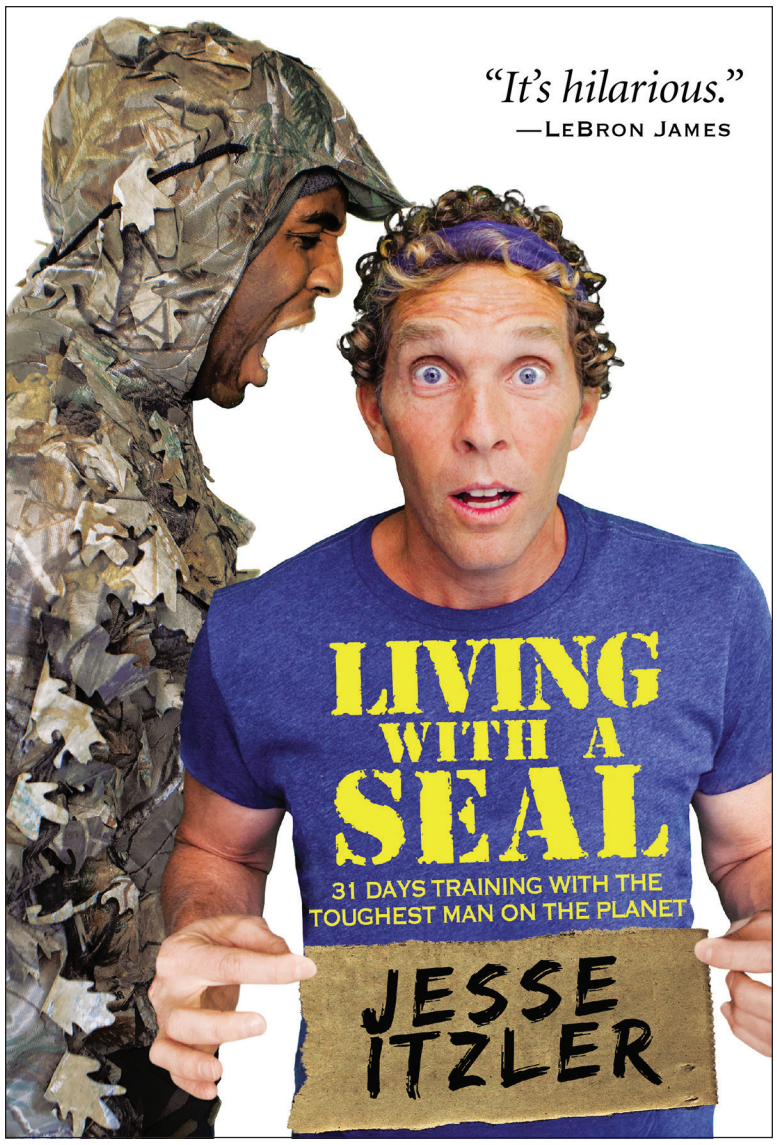
"There are countless hungry and sick elderly Jews across the FSU, including over 100,000 Holocaust survivors, who depend on our help," Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, IFCJ founder and president, said in a statement.

"Too many Jews around the world, but especially in the former Soviet Union, struggle to meet their most basic needs."

IFCJ raises more than $140 million per year, mostly from Christians, to assist Israel and the Jewish people. Since its founding more than 30 years ago. The organization said it has committed hundreds of millions of dollars to assisting poor and elderly Jews in the former Soviet Union.

JDC works in more than 70 countries, including Israel, to assist Jews in areas ranging from alleviating hunger to providing disaster relief.

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"Living With a SEAL"

FROM PAGE 1

ITZLER

chaired by couples Mynde and Gary Siperstein and Bethany and Richard Sutton. This community event will take place at Temple Emanu-El in Providence.

"We are so looking forward to hearing from a true Jewish renaissance man. Itzler's entrepreneurial spirit and thirst for life will surely energize us all and challenge us to be our very best," said co-chairs Mynde and Gary Siperstein.

"This event is an opportunity for the community to come together to celebrate teamwork and collaboration ...."

Vice Chair of Philanthropy Jamie Pious looks forward to the event as well. "We're thrilled to be hosting such a dynamic speaker whom we know will appeal to the majority of our Rhode Island Jewish community. He has a broad range of professional and personal experiences so it'll be easy to relate to and learn from his presentation."

Itzler graduated from American University in 1990 with a degree in Justice, Law, and Society. His journey post-graduation led him to Delicious Vinyl Records, signing as a lyricist, composer, and artist, He released songs and albums for both movies and professional sports teams, including the New York Knicks.

In 1996, Itzler co-founded Alphabet City Sports Records – a company that has since become well-known for its songs intermixed with historic sports calls and highlights for teams, including the Los Angeles Lakers, Washington Wizards, and Dallas Mavericks. Itzler sold the company in 1998 to SFX, a label that works exclusively with global electronic music.

In 2001, Itzler continued his entrepreneurial journey by co-founding Marquis Jet, now one of the largest private jet card companies worldwide. "Itzler is clearly a man of many talents and so diverse in his interests. We look forward to hearing him speak and we know his voice will surely resonate with the younger Jewish community and our peers," said co-chairs Bethany and Richard Sutton.

A decade later Itzler entered a USA Ultra Marathon Championship, running 100 miles in Texas in less than 24 hours and raising money for his top 10 favorite charities, one of being Rishon Letzion, Israel. During this run, Itzler also raised $1M for Colel Chabad, a Chabad-Lubavitch organization focused on social welfare. With that money, the organization built a new educational center for underprivileged children, featuring extended-hours daycare and a preschool. This run dubbed Itzler the "100-mile man."

Susan Froehlich, vice chair of philanthropy, said, "With Super Sunday having kicked off the Annual Campaign on Sept. 18, there is more energy than ever. Itzler's run serves as a metaphor for this momentum. This event is an opportunity for the community to come together to celebrate teamwork and collaboration and what better way to do it than by hosting someone who puts his all into fundraising and good causes?"

In the late 2000s, Itzler, inspired by his newfound nickname, created a brand incubator and accelerator named the 100-Mile Group. During this venture, the 100-Mile Group formed a partnership with Zico Coconut Water and the Coca Cola Company.

Most recently, Itzler and his wife, Spanx founder Sarah Blakely, along with others, bought the Atlanta Hawks. It was then that Itzler released his book, "Living With a SEAL: 31 Days Training With the Toughest Man on the Planet," in which he recounts living with a Navy SEAL for a month trial, serving to strengthen his mental and physical integrity and agility.

Grab a copy of Itzler's book and prepare yourself for a very special evening. A pre-reception for Pacesetters, Lions of Judah, and Silver Circle donors is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. A Double Chai Society pre-reception is set for 6 p.m. For more information on this event or to RSVP, please contact Michele Gallagher at mgallagher@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 165, or visit jewishallianceri.org.

JENNIFER ZWIRN is in the philanthropy department at the Jewish Alliance.



FROM PAGE 1

PERES

"He worked to his last days for peace and a better future for all. As Israel's President, Shimon did so much to unite the nation. And the nation loved him for it.

"His name will be forever engraved in the story of the rebirth of the Jewish people, as one of our great leaders, as one of the founding fathers of the State of Israel."

Peres' family announced his death at 7 a.m. Sept. 28 in Israel, several hours after his passing.

Chemi Peres, one of the late statesman's two sons, thanked the nation and people around the world for their support and prayers on behalf of his father.

"You enveloped our father in love, and we know how much he loved you," he said.

"Our father's legacy has always been the future. Look to tomorrow, he taught us, build Israel's future with courage and with wisdom and always continue to strive for peace. We were privileged to have been part of his private family. But today, we sense that the entire nation of Israel and the global community mourn this great loss. We share this pain, together."

The family thanked the staff of Sheba Medical Center for its devoted care and sent a message to the other families sitting with loved ones in the Intensive Care Unit wishing for full recoveries.

Rafi Walden, Peres' personal physician and his son-in-law, said Peres died with dignity and did not experience pain.

"We all believed that so much more still awaited him, and that Israel and the world would continue to benefit from his contributions," Walden said. "His life ended abruptly, while he was still working on his great passion – strengthening the state and striving for peace. His legacy will remain with us all."

Peres' successor as president, Reuven Rivlin, issued a statement from Ukraine, where he attended ceremonies marking the anniversary of the Babi Yar massacre. Rivlin noted that he was located a short distance from the birthplace of Peres, who was born Szymon Perski and later immigrated to Israel.

"There is not a chapter in the history of the State of Israel in which Shimon did not write or play a part," Rivlin said. "As one man he carried a whole nation on the wings of imagination, on the wings of vision. A man who was a symbol for the great spirit of this people. Shimon made us look far into the future, and we loved him. We loved him because he made us dare to imagine not what was once here, nor what is now, but what could be."

Israeli schools dedicated the first hour of classes Sept. 28 to the memory of Peres by instruction of Education Minister Naftali Bennett.

"Shimon Peres was my education minister, and I will miss him very much. He didn't watch history – he wrote it," Bennett said in a statement.

Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat called Peres "a true friend of Jerusalem" and said he had "the honor of experiencing countless unique Jerusalem moments with President Peres."

Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein said the Israeli parliament "bows its head and agonizes over the passing" of Peres, Israel's ninth president and a former prime minister.

"The State of Israel bids farewell to the head of its family; a man who had seen everything, was involved in everything and shaped everything," Edelstein said in a statement.

"He was among the giants of our national leadership over the past century; a man with much credit to his name, a shining example of a proud Zionist who aspired his entire life to act for the benefit of the country and its citizens."

Israeli author Amos Oz told The Associated Press that Peres radically changed his political views as he aged.

"My friend Shimon had a very rare human quality: He had the ability to change," Oz said.

"When I met Peres in the early '70s, he was in my eyes a banal hawk. Supporting settlers, a settler lover, a security man, the more land the better, the more power the better. He changed before my eyes … into an enthusiastic and stubborn believer in Israeli-Palestinian peace and Israeli-Arab peace."

Tzipi Livni, a joint leader of the Zionist Union and a former foreign minister, wrote in The New York Times: "There are very few people in the world whose lives align so effortlessly with the birth and being of their homeland."

Peres, she said, "left an indelible mark on Israel – fighting for its independence, its security and then for its peace. It is difficult to imagine Israel's past without him; it will be even harder to imagine its future."

Zionist Union leader Isaac Herzog called Peres "a teacher, a friend and a remarkable statesman who will be forever remembered as an icon of Israel's history and whose legacy will continue to play a profound role in Israel's future."

Herzog said he has known Peres since he was a child and was proud to have been able to serve him first as an assistant and later as an adviser.

"The State of Israel and the Jewish Diaspora were united in our love of this great leader, and we are united in pain at his passing," he said.

Jewish groups praise Shimon Peres as respected statesman and peacemaker

BY JTA STAFF

JTA – Jewish groups in Israel, the United States and around the world lauded Shimon Peres, the former Israeli president who died Sept. 28, as a respected leader and a warrior for peace.

"Peres was always driven by a deep sense of responsibility toward the entire Jewish people. He concerned himself with the fate and future of the entire nation, but also with each of its sons and daughters, both near and far," Natan Sharansky, chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel, said.

Sharansky recalled that Peres was "the first Israeli" he saw when he arrived from Russia after his many years in prison and that he would always remember the then-prime minister as "the individual who started the Israeli chapter of my life."

Ellen Hershkin, the president of Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, said her organization lost more than a powerful senior statesman and peacemaker.

"We have lost more than a strong defender of Israel, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and a father of the Oslo Accords, a past prime minister and president." Her members, she said, have lost "a friend."

European Jewish Council President Moshe Kantor said in a statement: "An important part of our people is no longer with us, and our collective heart is aching."

American Jewish Committee CEO David Harris met with Peres many times, both in Israel and the United States.

"Peres had extraordinary energy, boundless optimism and future-oriented vision, not only about the possibilities of peace and coexistence in the region, but also about the exciting pathways of new technologies for the benefit of humankind — from nano-science to mapping the brain," he said in a statement.

The Anti-Defamation League called Peres "the diplomatic, political and social innovation face of Israel over a seven-decade career."

"His moderation and insight not only drew world leaders and dignitaries to meet and consult with him, but also served Israel in its ongoing fight against delegitimization and other anti-Israel forces," Marvin Nathan, the ADL's national chair, and Jonathan Greenblatt, its CEO, said in a statement.

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Autumn in the biblical garden at Temple Sinai

BY CATHERINE WALTERS

CRANSTON – Now, as we lose the warmth and light of the summer sun, there is an invigorating crispness in the air, we put on sweaters and, in the biblical garden at Temple Sinai, the growing season comes to an end. As we prepare the garden for the coming winter, we make note of what worked and what didn't, and what changes we might make in the spring.

This season, the fig tree has yielded another modest crop of small and lovely figs. The two-year-old grape vine is now entwined on the cedar arbor, and has reached its full height. Next spring it should continue to make its way along two courses of wire that extend the width of the structure. Once they lose their leaves, the fig and the grape will be wrapped in burlap against bitter January winds.

The ancient grains have had mixed success: barley always yields its heads of grain, but the ancient strain of emmer wheat has failed to develop seed heads. Sorghum cane is now a spectacular 8 or 9 feet tall, and is laden with plumes of millet. With the start of a new religious school year, rosemary, lavender and sage will be harvested to fill spice boxes, and wild tulip bulbs will be planted in the still-warm earth. After the High Holy Days, it will be time to build a *sukkah*, and to clear away the withered leaves and stems that are the remains of summer's abundance.

Our forebears in the biblical world reserved a portion of their crop to ensure adequate seed supply for the coming season. Because poor harvests came frequently, as often as one in every four seasons, it was necessary to grow and store surplus grain and foodstuffs to sustain the community in lean times. Activities in the biblical garden help students understand the concept of food insecurity, and explore issues of hunger and Jewish values in our own communities.

Religious school classes will reserve adequate seed stock for the next growing season in the biblical garden by harvesting seeds and restocking the seed basket. Students enjoy shaking pods of broad beans, nigella, cleome and poppy, listening for the rattle of the tiny miracles contained within. Lentils, grains, herbs and flaxseed are collected, deposited in bags and carefully labeled.

The seed basket will reappear in spring along with trays and peat pots filled with soil so students can begin to sow seeds and witness the germination of new plants. Planting a seed is an act of trust that these small, desiccated entities with their curious shapes will sprout new life, and grow and flourish with adequate water, light and earth. Collecting seeds in the fall, and planting them the following spring are simple activities that place our children and our gardens in the cycle of life and remind us that we are dependent on the abundance of nature to sustain us.

The biblical garden was established on the Temple Sinai grounds in the summer of 2010 with a three-fold purpose:

• As a living testament to our connection with Torah and the everyday lives of our forbears in ancient Israel, through sight and touch, taste and smell;

• To engage the Temple's Religious School children in the cycle of planting and harvest;

• As an inviting oasis for rest, reflection and shalom.

The garden provides opportunities for teaching about how plant material was utilized in biblical communities, as food and fodder, as textiles, in construction, and in sacred ritual. For all who visit, it offers a seasonal display of *shoshanim*, wildflowers that flourished in ancient times and still today in Israel.

CATHERINE WALTERS tends the biblical garden at Temple Sinai. For more information, she can be reached at 401-419-7698 (margalit_rut@hotmail.com).



PHOTOS | CATHERINE WALTERS

Sunflowers and grape arbor in September in the biblical garden.



Temple Sinai third grade gardeners plant seeds for the biblical garden.

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Adler's Design Center & Hardware: Better paint, truer colors

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

Most people know that you can't count on the color you see on paint chips to exactly match how the paint will look on a wall. Harry Adler does not dispute this – instead, he has fixed the problem.

Adler, who is a former member of Providence's Temple Beth-El and who co-owns, with his cousin Marc Adler, Adler's Design Center & Hardware in Providence's Fox Point neighborhood, has found a niche in the paint business: he has dedicated himself to developing products that help customers pick the right color the first time. This niche, he says, is what has helped Adler's stay in business so long (since 1919, to be exact).

"The companies that specialized in manufacturing paint to small independent retailers like us were being bought by larger companies," Adler said in explaining his business's need to develop unique and superior products in order to compete with bigger businesses.

The first solution centered on paint chips. Paint chips, Adler says, are usually printed using either lacquer or printer's ink. The former is more desirable as it more accurately resembles how the paint will look on a wall. But 20 years ago, that wasn't enough for Adler.

In 1998, he teamed up with five other independent retailers and a paint chemist to develop solutions to the paint chip problem.

They came across a business based in Winnipeg, Canada, that had developed a paint chip that used the actual paint. When this business was unable to continue production, Adler and the other independent retailers bought it. They also developed a new line of paint, called C2 Paint.

In addition, Adler has developed two inexpensive paint services. One is called Rent A Color. In the back room of the store are shelves upon shelves of paint cans that customers can "rent" so they can try them out on the walls of their homes. This is not only economical, but also resource-friendly; if customers aren't happy with their selection, they're not stuck with a full gallon of paint that will go to waste.

The second service is customizable paint. For example, Adler says, take the color Spanish Moss. If the color is a shade off for your tastes, Adler's will custom mix it to your liking – perhaps, say, one part Spanish Moss to three parts white.

"Part of what we were looking for was a better quality paint, and part of what we were looking for was interesting and better color – whatever that meant," says Adler.

As he was speaking, Adler was ringing out a customer who had both rented a color and bought customizable paint. Looks like it worked!



Harry Adler mixes a customized paint color.

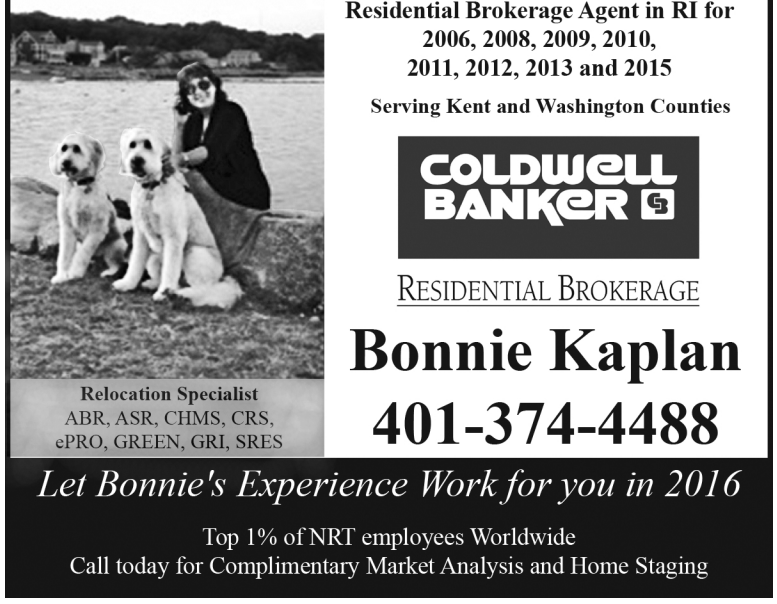
ARIEL BROTHMAN is a freelance writer who lives in Wrentham, Massachusetts.



Pain chip samples for the C2 paint line.

PHOTOS | ARIEL BROTHMAN





Family has run Iz Schwartz Appliance for generations

BY FRAN OSTENDORF
fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org

Leah MacLeod is part of a family business tradition. Her grandfather, Isaac Schwartz – called Iz by his friends – started Iz Schwartz Appliance in 1979 at 110 Slades Ferry Ave., in Somerset, Massachusetts. Prior to that, he had worked with her great-grandfather, Hyman, who had a home improvement and lumber store in Fall River in the 1950s.

MacLeod's father, Barry, went to work at Iz Schwartz in the '80s. But Iz kept working, well into his 80s, according to MacLeod. "He loved coming to work," she said.

MacLeod started working in the business part time while finishing up a college degree.

"I was lucky working alongside my father and grandfather for many years," she said.

Both men passed away eight years ago.

"I cherish those years we worked together and am so thankful for the knowledge of the business they passed on," MacLeod said.

In college, MacLeod thought she was on the road to becoming an accountant. But she enjoyed working in the small business so much that she decided to stay.

"I made the decision a few months before graduating that this is where I was meant to be, and I have been here ever since," said MacLeod, who is married with a 3-year-old and a 6-year-old and attends Congregation Tifereth Israel, in New Bedford.

In her 18 years at Iz Schwartz, she's seen the business transform from a warehouse with bargains, but not a wide variety, to an expanded selection.



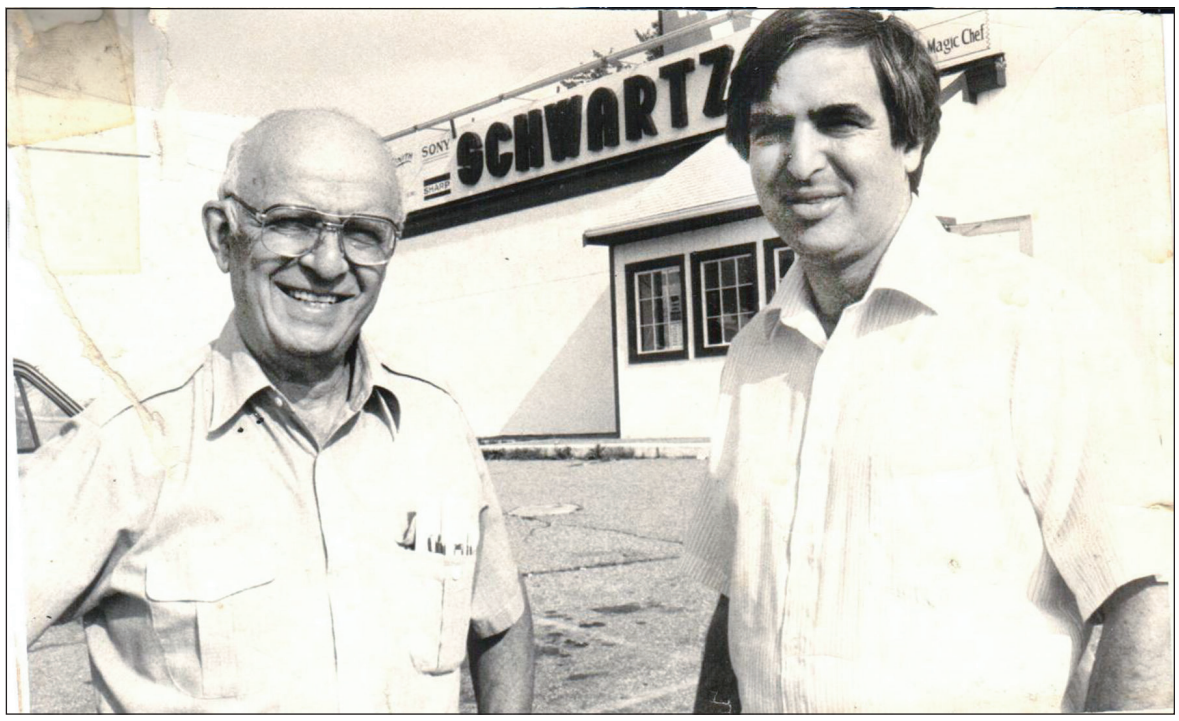
Leah MacLeod

"There are so many products we carry today, from refrigerators, dishwashers, ranges, all types of kitchen ventilation, washers and dryers, freezers and more. Some products that people may not know that we carry are garbage disposals, sinks, faucets, and seasonal products like grills and air conditioners."

Their brands run the gamut and include luxury names like Wolf and a new line by Bosch called Benchmark.

"We have appliances for couples and individuals just starting out all the way up to the family or people planning their dream home," she said.

MacLeod has seen a lot of home trends come and go.



Iz and Barry Schwartz.

What's in now?

"Of course, stainless is still very popular," she said. "But now black stainless is starting to have a niche market. And, of course, in the higher-end kitchens, custom panels for refrigerators and dishwashers are still in high demand."

MacLeod said they've also "seen a high increase in people adding steam ovens, microwave drawers and wine refrigerators."

FRAN OSTENDORF is the editor of The Jewish Voice.



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PATRICIA RASKIN

When I think of home, I think of "being home," and that can be in my physical space or just with people and places that bring me that same comfort. I think this sense of "being home" is one of the most important feelings we can have – it speaks to safety, harmony, peace and love.

In the fall, the leaves and our gardens, landscape and shrubbery change in shape, condition and color. That to me is a metaphor for life changes. People and places who are dear to us may also change in form and shape, but they are still with us and are a part of our root system.

There is a wonderful quote at Aish.com comparing humans to trees. I could really relate to this as I often see trees that remind me of people and families.

Rabbi Dov Lev writes, in an article called "The Jewish Garden," that "The Torah compares a human being to a tree. There is much that we can learn from trees – from their vibrancy, growth patterns, and perseverance under difficult conditions. This is true for people as well. To paraphrase the Talmud: 'If you have many branches and few roots, then a wind can turn your tree upside down. Whereas if you have few branches and many roots, even if all the winds of the world were to blow, you will not budge from your place.' "

This quote speaks to our deep connection to our faith: God, our beliefs and goals are what get us through the windy days and the tumultuous times. Examples of this are weathering downturns in business thanks to the "roots" of longevity, reputation and solid performance, and weathering relationship and family issues thanks to the "roots" of commitment, resilience and determination.

The trees that look brittle and dead in winter have a strong root system so they will thrive again when the season changes. So, no matter what the situation is, we can feel at home in our "rootedness" and see possibilities and hope.

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.

Take care when hiring companies for fall cleanup

BY THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Summer is over and it won't be long before the leaves begin to fall. Now is the time to get your home and yard prepared for the cold. Though there are many reliable businesses that provide these services, there are also a few that have no plans to actually do the work. Better Business Bureau (BBB) is reminding consumers of the steps to take to ensure your property is taken care of this fall.



Everyone knows it's important to have your chimney serviced and yard debris cleaned up before winter begins. Remember that flyer in your mailbox last week from a local chimney sweep or tree trimmer offering a "one-of-a-kind" deal? Homeowner beware! Rather than choosing the first business that pitches you, it's important to do your research before you let them work on your property.

"BBB urges consumers to take the same amount of care finding a business to perform work outside their homes as they do for inside," said Paula Fleming, vice president of communications and marketing for the local BBB. "It's easy to hire a business on the spot, but it's important to do your research and find out who you're letting on your property."

When looking for yard and maintenance services, keep these tips in mind:

Hire a professional. Research businesses at bbb.org/boston or use our Accredited Business Directory to find reliable businesses. Make sure you know who you're dealing with and how to reach them if problems arise. Be sure to ask for references.

Be wary of door-to-door solicitations. Every year, countless homeowners have tree trimmers or chimney sweepers knock on their door and offer to provide their services at a discount. In too many cases, the work performed is shoddy or only partially completed while paid in full – and the company fails to return, as promised – forcing property owners to hire a reliable business to do the job right.

Request an on-site inspection. The inspection should include all landscaping, all parts of the chimney, or any other areas that need preparation for the fall. Estimates should be given only after an on-site inspection. Businesses that give an estimate without a visual inspection cannot be sure of the scope of the work involved and consumers run the risk of paying more than they were quoted. Estimates should include all labor, cleanup and disposal charges.

Get everything in writing. A contract should clearly state the services you will receive, as well as when the job is expected to be completed, payment terms and conditions, contact information for the business – phone number and address – as well as any refund or cancellation policies.

Verify insurance coverage. Tree care can be dangerous if not done by properly trained experts. Confirm that the business has insurance that covers worker's compensation, property damage and personal liability in case of accidents. Also be sure that the chimney sweeper you hire has the necessary insurance to protect you and your home in the event of damage or injury.

Remember, you're the customer; it's your home. Never feel pressured to give anyone your business just because he or she is standing on your doorstep.

THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU serves Eastern Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island and Vermont.

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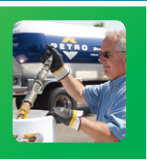
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Beowulf reimagined for our times

BY KARA MARZIALI

No doubt my 9th grade English teacher would be aghast to learn that Trinity Rep opened its 2016-2017 season with a rock 'n' roll musical based on the Old English poem "Beowulf."

The original epic poem, likely written between 700 and 1000 AD, recalls the legendary strength of the title character, and it serves as a record of Anglo Saxon history. It is often referred to as one of the most famous pieces of literature, and its themes make it a timeless story.

As a result, modern theatre audiences will marvel at the melodious magic of "Beowulf: A Thousand Years of Baggage." Trinity pushes the theatrical envelope once again, and the reimagined version, created by lyricist Jason Craig and composer Dave Malloy, fuses a literary classic with classic rock.

"Something we do extremely well at Trinity is to bring bold, new life to classic texts," remarks director Curt Columbus. "Jason Craig and Dave Malloy have given us a thrilling, musical reinvention that will delight audiences."

Malloy says, "Our show explores the more dubious sides of [Beowulf's] actions...and questions what exactly a warrior hero is and what he stands for." He adds, "I think at any time in history you're going to have leaders with violent, masculine, militaristic ideologies, so "Beowulf" continues to resonate."

But the question remains. How does the classroom classic translate as a *musical*? Personally, I can't think of a better way to adapt the classic, blood-soaked Old English poem for a modern audience than to set it to music. The cumbersome language is eliminated while the integrity and intent of the story is preserved.

The show opens with three academics, played by Stephen Berenson, Janice Duclos and Anne Scurria, introducing the backstory: Beowulf, who has the strength of 30 men in each arm, defends the great hall of Heorot, by traveling great distances to prove his power at impossible odds against the monster Grendel, Grendel's mother and a dragon. Throughout the musical, the academics magically morph into the three villains, and each scene climaxes with an epic battle.



Anne Scurria as Grendel's mother.



Charlie Thurston as Beowulf.

PHOTOS | MARK TUREK

One of the most enthralling and brilliantly staged aspects of the musical is the confrontation and subsequent mêlée between Beowulf and Grendel's mother. It is performance art at its best – clever and imaginative, while ever advancing the plot. After each conflict, we are left to wonder what defines a hero, what defines a monster and who decides which is which.

"We are in the midst of a political season that repeatedly asks the question, how safe are we?" says Columbus. "Do strength and power transcend all other considerations for a people? Can we really build a wall to keep the 'monsters' out? And how do we put an end to monsters, to evil, to threat, for once and all? "Beowulf" has something to say on every count. Fortunately, in our production, this philosophical debate comes with good, rock music."

Moreover, during intermission, Trinity's production includes audience engagement. Audience members are invited to approach the set (made up of scaffolding and oddities), speak to cast members, graffiti one area of the stage, play a game and drink Grendel's Grog, a libation named after one of Beowulf's adversaries.

Resident company member Charlie Thurston is flawless in his portrayal of Beowulf, the dim-witted, testosterone-driven hero. His raw sexuality is palpable as he rocks with the female warriors. Another standout is Joe Wilson, Jr., who plays Hrothgar, the king of the Danes. Thurston's and Wilson's velvety voices simply add to the caliber of the production.

The mood of the show is often dark, peppered with humor and adult language. The songs are catchy, and the timbre of the music evokes a rock concert – loud, brassy, raucous, eerie, rhythmic, choppy, piercing, strident, resonant and heavy. But don't let that deter you from attending. The songs brilliantly tie in with the plot. (In fact, we learn that it is "better to retaliate than to mourn.") The music is emblematic of social revolution, an indicator of cultural shifts and beckon to rebellious behaviors, all of which dovetail with the action of Beowulf. Once the music mixes with the message, the audience will surely understand why this story was set to music and staged as such.

"Beowulf: A Thousand Years of Baggage," directed by Curt Columbus, is running through Oct. 9, 2016 in Trinity Rep's Chace Theater. Tickets are available at trinityrep.com, by calling (401) 351-4242 or at the theater's box office at 201 Washington St., Providence.

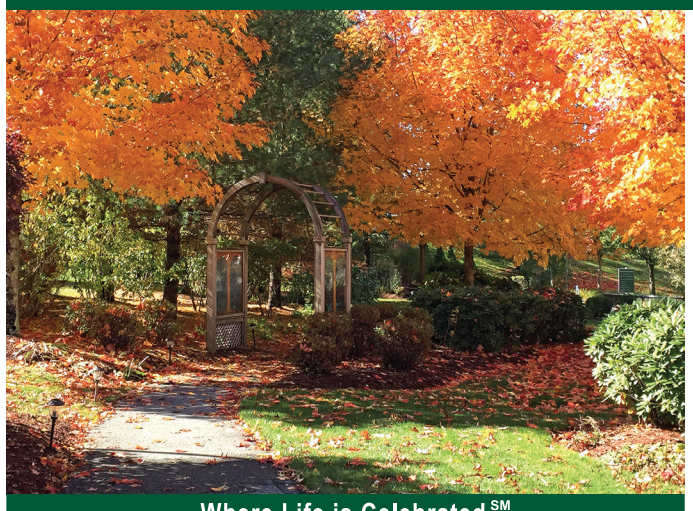
KARA MARZIALI is the communications director of the Jewish Alliance, a patron of the arts and a theater enthusiast.



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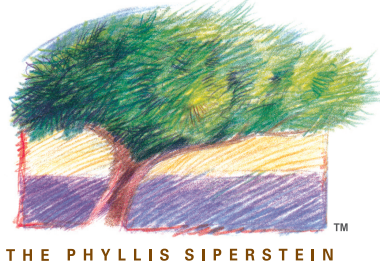
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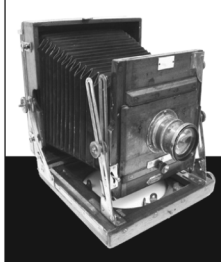
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Israel proposes tech 'friendship' in meeting with African leaders

JTA – Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and representatives of Israel's private sector met with African leaders on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly to discuss Israeli innovations in Africa and developing countries.

Taking place Sept. 22 after Netanyahu addressed the General Assembly, where he boasted about his visit this summer to four African countries, the event featured dozens of ambassadors and senior U.N. officials.

"Africa excites our imagination," he told the leaders in the closed-door meeting, according to The Jerusalem Post. "We would like to propose a friendship and a partnership with every one of your countries."

Later, Netanyahu and Israel's U.N. ambassador, Danny Danon, hosted an event in which representatives of Israel's tech, solar and medical industries presented their innovations to diplomats from Africa and developing countries elsewhere.

They included Energiya Global Capital, a Jerusalem-based solar and social development enterprise, which said it has already signed deals to deploy $250 million into commercial solar energy fields in Africa in the next 12 months.

Its CEO, Yosef Abramowitz, said Energiya is prepared to invest $2 billion over the next four years through the White House Power Africa program, with the goal of providing clean electricity for 50 million people by 2020. The company launched East Africa's first solar field, in Rwanda, in February 2015.

Other innovations on display included a mobile "mini farm," an atmospheric water generator and a cancer-detecting medical device.

"Technology changes everything," Netanyahu told the forum. "And technology is related to so many areas: to health care, agriculture, education and so much more."

Earlier this summer, Netanyahu visited Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda. Israel is also seeking to become an observer state in the African Union.

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Everett Berlinsky, 93

NAPLES, FLA. – Everett Berlinsky, of Naples, formerly of West Greenwich and Cranston, died on Sept. 22. He was the son of the late Albert and Katy (Kessler) Berlinsky and the brother of the late Raymond Berlinsky and Evelyn Myerson.

He was the husband of the late Sandra (Pliner) Berlinsky for 40 years. He is survived by his daughters Ellen Berlinsky (Gary Schine) of Providence and Marcia Berlinsky (Michael Rosman) of Arlington, Mass., his sons David Berlinsky (Adrienne Kovach) of Nottingham, N.H., and Richard Berlinsky of North Kingston, and grandchildren Adam, Laura, Andrew, Taylor and Elise. He was the longtime companion of Sybil Simon.

He held a bachelor's degree in agricultural chemistry and English from the University of Rhode Island and a master's degree in financial services from the American College at Bryn Mawr. He had a long and illustrious career as a CLU, CHFC and certified financial planner. He was a master gardener and world traveler, a man of high integrity with a mischievous sense of humor. He was a vibrant part of our lives to the end and will be sorely missed.

Donations in his memory may be made to the University of Rhode Island, Department of Natural Resources Science.

Selma F. Fishbein, 89

BONITA SPRINGS, FLA. – Selma Frances (Gold) Fishbein, longtime resident of Providence, died on Sept. 25 in Bonita Springs.

She was born on Jan. 2, 1927 in Providence, the daughter of the late Morris I. Gold and Esther Hassenfeld Gold.

She graduated from Classical High School and Pembroke College/Brown University with a bachelor's degree in social work. She began her career as a social worker in Philadelphia and was active in the Ladies Association of the Providence Hebrew Day School, Hadassah, the Miriam Hospital and Pioneer Women.

She and her late husband, Dr. Joseph J. Fishbein, were active in the Providence community for more than four decades. Together, they supported many community and Jewish organizations, including the Providence Hebrew Day School, New England Academy of Torah, Congregation Beth Sholom, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and Jewish Family Services.

Selma is predeceased by her sister, Shirley Dwares, and her brother, Benson Gold and is survived by her sister-in-law Sheila Gold. She is also survived by her children Drs. Shari Mandel and Alex Mandel; Drs. Keith Fishbein and Nancy Feldman; Janni Fishbein-Slotkis and David Slotkis; Amy Fishbein Waisel and Harold Waisel. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to Congregation Beth Sholom, or the Dr. Joseph Jay and Selma Fishbein Fund at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

Alan H. Gaffin, 84

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Alan H. Gaffin died on Sept. 16. He was the husband of Ann Gaffin.

Born in Worcester, Mass., he moved to Providence in 1969.

He was the owner of Albar Restaurant Equipment for 27 years. He retired in 1998. He was a member of B'nai Brith, Redwood Masonic Lodge and Temple Emanu-El.



He was the father of Robyn Gaffin and her partner John Burke, Michael Gaffin and his wife Sue Robbio and Jeffrey Gaffin and his wife Valerie. Grandfather of Sadie and Joshua and Alexandra Gaffin and Allison Robbio.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Temple Emanu-El Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, 99 Taft Ave, Providence, RI 02906.

Florence W. Kirsch, 94

BRIGHTON, N.Y. – Florence W. Kirsch died in Brighton on Sept. 16. She was predeceased by her husband Seymour, to whom she was married for 62 years. She is survived by her son Kenneth (Nancy), of Providence, her son Harold of Lafayette, Calif., and her daughter Roberta (David) Feldman of Rochester, N.Y. She also leaves her beloved grandchildren, Madeline Kirsch of Washington, DC; Sam Kirsch of Queens, N.Y.; Kate (David) Kurzmann of Royal Oak, Mich.; and Andrew (Remy) Feldman of Chicago, Ill., and great-granddaughter, Sari Kurzmann.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., she had lived most of her adult life in Marblehead, Mass. Valedictorian of her class at Thomas Jefferson High School in Brooklyn, Florence received a BBA in Accounting from City College of New York and a LLB from Brooklyn Law School. A CPA and an attorney, Florence practiced in both fields until retiring five years ago. She was a survivor of four bouts of cancer and became an insulin-dependent diabetic as an adult. Florence was a remarkable woman, many years ahead of her time, who will be deeply missed by her family and all who knew her.

Donations may be made to the Memory & Aging Program, Butler Hospital, 345 Blackstone Blvd., Providence RI 02906 or to a charity of your choice.

Ida Goldstein Paster, 104

CRANSTON, R.I. – Ida Goldstein Paster, of Beechwood Drive, died Sept. 18 at home. She was the beloved wife of the late Leonard Paster. Born in Boston, a daughter of the late Samuel and Anna (Sentler) Goldstein, she had lived in Cranston for 8 years, previously a longtime resident of Pawtucket.

Ida was a member of Temple Beth-El and its sisterhood. She was a founding member of the Crestwood Country Club and an active member of numerous charitable organizations.

Devoted mother of Sandra Strauss and her husband, Justin "Jay" Strauss of Cranston and the late Lorna Osiason and her husband, Burt, of Tampa, Fla. Dear sister of the late Aron Goldstein and his wife, Barbara. Loving grandmother of Lauren Blum and her husband, Paul, of New York, Dr. Andrew Osiason and his wife, Dr. Fran, of New Jersey, Lori Smith and her husband, Richard, of Massachusetts, Amy Quinn of Rhode Island and Neal Osiason and his wife, Sherri, of Florida. Cherished great-grandmother of Jared and Allison Smith, Matthew, Eric and Cristian Hogberg, Brett and Ethan Quinn, Nathan, Eliza and Liana Blum and Jason, Eden and Jacob Osiason. Adored great-great grandmother of four beautiful girls, Ava, Hannah, Sophie and Kerrin Hogberg.

Her family would like to thank Ida's eight caregivers for their dedication over the past few years.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Hope, Hospice and Palliative Care, 1085 N. Main St., Providence, RI 02904 or your favorite charity.

ASK THE DIRECTOR

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

Today's question: How does the hour of death effect the *yahrtzeit* date?

H.L., Johnston

The *yahrtzeit*, which is the anniversary of the date of death, is remembered by lighting a 24-hour candle. This candle is lit at sunset. The Jewish calendar is lunar, so the times of sunset change throughout the course of the year. For example, if the person passed away on Sept. 20, 2016, before sundown, it would fall on 17 Elul. If death occurred after sunset, the *yahrtzeit* would be 18 Elul. When we make the personalized 20-year *yahrtzeit* calendars for families, we place the Hebrew date of death in the center and the list of dates on the secular (Gregorian) calendar below. For whichever secular date is listed on the 20-year calendar, the candle is lit on the evening before.

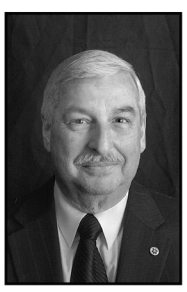
Using the example above, 17 Elul falls on Friday, Sept. 8, 2017. Therefore, the candle would be lit at sunset on Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017. Hopefully, this helps!

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

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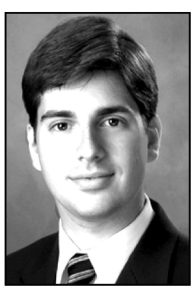
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REMEMBER THE PAST

From the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

The hidden treasures of the Middle East's *genizot*

BY RUTH BREINDEL

A *genizah*, Hebrew for "hiding place," is a depository for sacred Hebrew books that are no longer usable. Since they cannot be thrown out because they contain God's name, these documents, often called *shemot* or "names," are put in a *genizah*. *Genizot* are usually found in the attic or basement of a synagogue, but can also be in walls or buried underground. Non-religious documents can be put there as well.

From the mid-1800s on, scraps of paper with writing in Hebrew, Latin, Greek, Aramaic and other languages have come out of the Middle East. They were sold to tourists and dealers, and some eventually made their way to England. There, Solomon Schechter, a professor of Talmudic and rabbinical literature at Cambridge University (and later head of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City), recognized some of these scraps as the original Hebrew "Book of Wisdom," ascribed to Ben Sira. The "Book of Wisdom" became part of the Christian biblical canon (Ecclesiastes) when translated into Greek. Before its discovery in the Cairo *Genizah*, no known Hebrew version existed; some scholars even doubted its existence.

The place where these scraps, and larger pieces, were found was the Ben Ezra synagogue in Fustat (sometimes spelled Fostat) in Cairo. For over 1,000 years, the Jews of Cairo had deposited parchment with the name of God and, indeed, almost any other paper that had been written on, into their *genizah*; this was their recycling bin, which they did not empty.



Solomon Schechter poring over genizah fragments; Cambridge University Library 1898

Schechter led an expedition to Cairo, where, over several painstaking months, he extracted thousands of pages from the *genizah* and took them back to Cambridge. The sealed, dark room in the dry Egyptian climate allowed for the preservation of the documents. Eventually over 300,000 pieces of parchment were taken out. (More information is available in the book "Sacred Trash," by Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole.)

For more than 100 years, scholars have been working cooperatively to translate and match various pieces of writings. More than 30 works by Rabbi Moses ben Maimon (Maimonides, or the Rambam, 1135-1204), the greatest medieval Jewish philosopher and physician, were discovered, including commentary on some Mishnah tractates and a number of letters. Before this discovery, only a few lines of original writings by the Rambam had ever been found.

Using computer technology, face recognition software and various forms of ultraviolet light and other imaging techniques, more and more pieces are being joined together.

Many cities have a *genizah* in a Jewish cemetery. Here in Rhode Island, some congregations have their own *genizah*, but we do not have a community one at any cemetery. In West Roxbury, Massachusetts, there is one run by the Jewish Cemetery Association. Their website states: "JCAM holds an annual Book Burial each spring at the King Solomon Memorial Park cemetery in West Roxbury. JCAM collects thousands of worn out *siddurim* (prayer books), Torah scrolls, *tallitot,* tzitzit, tefellin and other sacred materials containing the Hebrew name of God each year from the local communities, synagogues and organizations."

You can find more information at JCAM's website, https://www.jcam.org/Pages/Services/book_burials.htm.

RUTH BREINDEL is president of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association.

LIVING WELL

JSA offers solution-focused help for seniors

BY SUSAN BAZAR AND ERIN MINIOR

As we enter this new year, we take stock of what we have accomplished and what we are grateful for. And when we pause to take stock, in effect we reset and often calm our minds.

What is clear is that there are moments, even chapters, in our lives when hitting reset is hard. With good reason, we are burdened with challenges that defy description.

For caregivers, this is often the case. In and among medication management, cooking, appointment setting and transportation, patient advocacy and daily engagement, we are often fatigued and lose clarity. When layered on top of our own needs, we can, justifiably, feel foggy and overwhelmed. As people in this "sandwich generation" and others can attest, our children need homework oversight, our cars need servicing, our refrigerators need replenishing and our annual physicals need scheduling.

At the Jewish Seniors Agency, we can help. We are solution-focused and can help with the needs of seniors through our statewide outreach visitor program and our Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry. Our corps of volunteers canvas the state visiting residents in both nursing homes and assisted living residences, and delivering Kosher food to homes in need.

The social connections are powerful and speak to our heritage of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world. As best we can, we provide engagement with conversation, services, song, sometimes simply through eye contact and hand-holding. In powerful ways that are often intangible, we offer comfort and support.

Recently, JSA expanded its visitor program to include friendly home visits. Isolation is an issue for many seniors. For caregivers consumed with a loved one's needs with no respite, for seniors experiencing loss of family and/or friends, and for those with transportation challenges, isolation can be overwhelming.

Expanding our nexus of volunteers to combat isolation is essential. As Rosh Hashanah approaches, please consider helping JSA identify isolated seniors in our midst. Equally important, please consider joining our volunteer corps. Whether you engage seniors in our community with visits or deliver Kosher food to those in need, your capacity for gratitude will grow. By expanding our personal universe to include community outreach, we remind ourselves of its potent value.

To become a volunteer, call Susie Adler at JSA at 401-621-5374 or email her at ladler-jeri@jsari.org.

May you have a sweet and healthy New Year.

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

ERIN MINIOR (erin@jfsri.org) is the CEO of Jewish Family Service of R.I.



Different generations, different attitudes toward money

Texting versus email (or even snail mail). Angry Birds versus Monopoly. "The Theory of Everything" versus "The Sound of Music." "Dancing with the Stars" versus "American Bandstand."



It's no secret that there are a lot of differences between baby boomers, born between 1946 and 1964, and millennials, who were born after 1980 (though there is disagreement over the first birth year for the millennials). But when it comes to finances, you might be surprised by the differences between the generations. See if you can guess which generation made the following statements:

Boomer or millennial?

1) I have enough money to lead the life I want, or believe I will in the future.

2) My high school degree has increased my potential earning power.

3) I rely on my checking account to pay for day-to-day purchases.

4) I consider myself a conservative investor.

5) Generally speaking, most people can be trusted.

6) I'm worried that I won't be able to pay off the debts that I owe.

The answers

1) Millennials. According to a 2014 survey by the Pew Research Center, millennials were more optimistic about their finances than any other generational cohort, including baby boomers. Roughly 85 percent of millennials said they either currently had enough to meet their financial needs or expected to be able to live the lives they want in the future; that's substantially higher than the 60 percent of boomers who said the same thing. Although a higher percentage of boomers - 45 percent - said they currently have enough to meet their needs, only 32 percent of millennials felt they had enough money right now, but another 53 percent were hopeful about their financial futures. ("Millennials in Adulthood," Pew Research Center, 2014.)

2) Boomers. The value of a high school diploma in providing an income has dropped since the boomers' last senior prom, while a college education has never been more valuable. In 1979, the typical high school graduate's earnings were 77 percent of a college graduate's; in 2013, millennials with a high school diploma earned only 62 percent of what a college graduate did. And 22 percent of millennials with only a high school degree were living in poverty in 2013; back in 1979, the figure for boomers with a high school degree was 7 percent. ("The Rising Cost of Not Going to College," Pew Research Center, 2014.)

3) Boomers. Not surprisingly, millennials are far more likely than boomers to use alternative payment methods for day-to-day expenses. A study by the FINRA Investor Education Foundation found that millennials are almost twice as likely as boomers to use prepaid debit cards (31 percent compared to 16 percent of boomers). They're also more than six times as likely to use mobile payment methods such as Apple Pay or Google Wallet; 13 percent of millennials reported using mobile methods, while only 2 percent of boomers had done so. ("The Financial Capability of Young Adults – A Generational View," FINRA Foundation Financial Capability Insights, FINRA Investor Education Foundation, 2014.)

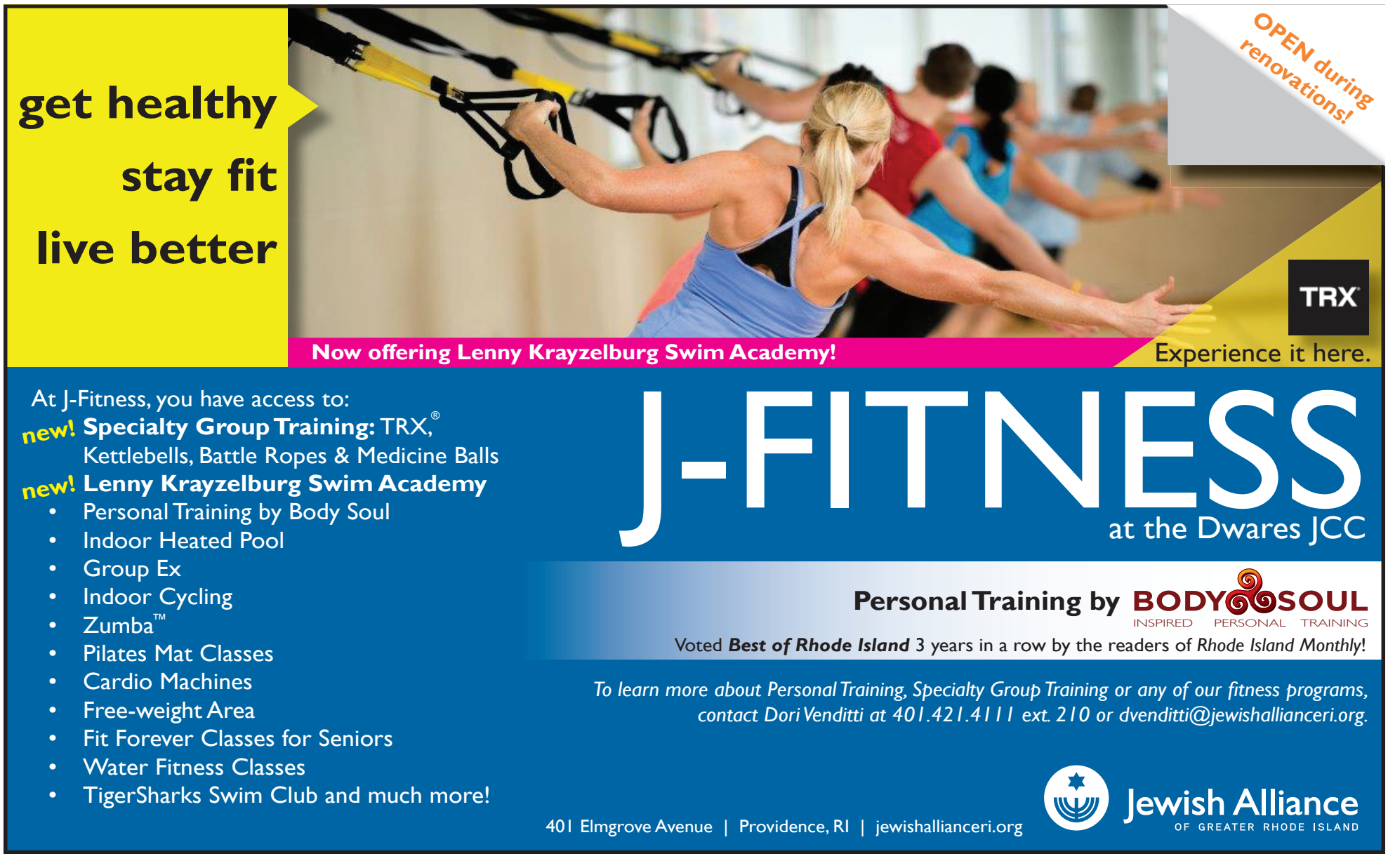


4) Millennials. You might think that with thousands of baby boomers retiring every day, the boomers would be the cautious ones. But in one survey of U.S. investors, only 31 percent of boomers identified themselves as conservative investors. By contrast, 43 percent of millennials described themselves as conservative when it came to investing. The survey also found that millennials outscored boomers on whether they wanted to leave money to their children (40 percent vs. 25 percent) and in wanting to improve their understanding of investing (44 percent vs. 38 percent). (Accenture, "Generation D: An Emerging and Important Investor Segment," 2013.)

5) Boomers. Millennials may have been around the track fewer times than boomers have, but their experiences seem to have given them a more jaundiced view of human nature. In the Pew Research "Millennials in Adulthood" survey, only 19 percent of millennials said most people can be trusted; with boomers, that percentage was 31 percent. However, millennials were slightly more upbeat about the future of the country; 49 percent of millennials said the country's best years lie ahead, while only 44 percent of boomers agreed.

6) Millennials. However, the difference between the generations is not as significant as you might think. In the FINRA Foundation financial capability study, 55 percent of millennials with student loans said they were concerned about being able to pay off their debt. That's not much higher than the 50 percent of boomers who were worried about debt repayment.

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



Touro Fraternal Association awards educational grants, loans

The Touro Fraternal Association, the largest men's independent Jewish fraternal association in the Northeast, has selected eight young men and women to share a total of $30,000 in educational financial aid.

Three of the recipients will receive $3,000 scholarship grants, while the others will share a total of $21,000 in interest-free loans from the Cranston-based association's Leo Greenberg Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The 2016 grant recipients are:



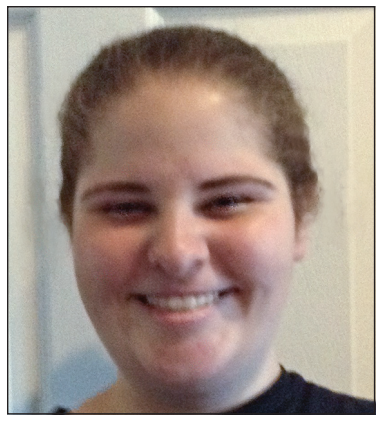
Samuel Ackerman

SAMUEL ACKERMAN, son of Barry Ackerman, of Cumberland. Sam is a junior at Columbia University, where he is studying political science. He is part of a group called the Columbia Political Union, which focuses on voter registration on his college campus as well as providing a forum for debates.



Erik Brenner

ERIK BRENNER, son of Jeremy Brenner, of Smithfield, is a freshman at Eastern Connecticut State University. Erik will study digital art design. He is an Eagle Scout and has competed in the Science Olympiad. In addition, he was a member of the Smithfield High School chapter of the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society.



Halle Lury

HALLE LURY, daughter of Alan Lury, of Sharon, Massachusetts, is a freshman at Curry College, studying graphic design. While in high school, Halle was involved in a Rosh Hodesh youth group for girls. She also attended March of the Living.

Regular Touro members, their spouses and children, and children of deceased Touro members enrolled full-time for the 2016-17 academic year in an accredited institution of higher learning are eligible for grants. Regular members, their children and children of deceased members similarly enrolled may apply for the interest-free loans.

Since the fund was established in 1981, approximately a half-million dollars has been distributed to students. All loans are interest-free and repayment begins six months after the student graduates or ceases to be a full-time student. To date, there have been no defaults on loans.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the Touro Fraternal Association, go to www.tourofraternal.org, email to info@tourofraternal.org, or call 401-785-6600.

Bernhardt Foundation seeks applications for grants

Potential for grant money for Jewish community agencies and nonprofit organizations

PROVIDENCE – Are you affiliated with a Jewish nonprofit organization in need of grant funds? If so, you might want to consider submitting a grant request to the Helene and Bertram Bernhardt Foundation.

Established in 2005 under the wills of the late Helene and Bertram Bernhardt, the Foundation's mission is to support nonprofit organizations, with a specific preference given to Jewish nonprofit organizations in Rhode Island and to nonprofit organizations that Helene and Bertram Bernhardt supported during their lives.

Since its founding, the Foundation has distributed over $4 million to such nonprofit organizations as Temple Beth El, the Jewish Alliance/JCC, Jewish Family Service, Hillel, Jewish Seniors Agency and many other agencies. In addition to these old favorites, the trustees are always on the lookout for new opportunities.

This year, the trustees expect to award approximately $400,000 in new grants, distributing the funds next May.

To receive the guidelines and application form for the grants, contact Samuel Zurier, Secretary of the Foundation, at 55 Dorrance Street, Suite 400, Providence, RI 02903 or sdz@om-rilaw.com .

The deadline to submit applications for the current grant cycle is December 1, 2016.

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FROM PAGE 1

5776 REVIEW

Hebron does not represent the values of the IDF," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says following the release of the video, shot by the human rights group B'Tselem. The soldier is charged with manslaughter in May and later goes on trial.

• Thousands of delegates attended the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's annual policy conference in Washington featuring appearances by most contenders for the presidency – most controversially Donald Trump, who sparked much talk of protests and walkouts in the days leading up to the conclave.

Speaking the morning after Trump's address to the gathering, AIPAC President Lillian Pinkus issues a rare apology for Trump's attacks on President Barack Obama and says the group is "deeply disappointed that so many people applauded a sentiment that we neither agree with or condone."

Hillary Clinton, Ted Cruz and John Kasich also addressed the conference, while Bernie Sanders issued a written statement to the group from the campaign trail.

• Merrick Garland, the chief of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, is nominated to the Supreme Court to replace Antonin Scalia, who died in February. In his acceptance speech, Garland emotionally recalls his grandparents who had fled anti-Semitism for better lives in the United States. Republicans vow not to consider his nomination during President Obama's last year in office.

• Mark Zuckerberg, the co-founder and CEO of Facebook, is the world's richest Jew, according to Forbes. The magazine's annual list of the world's billionaires shows Zuckerberg surpassing Oracle CEO Larry Ellison to claim the top spot among Jews.

April 2016

• Days ahead of the New York primary, Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton engaged in a heated exchange over Israel at a debate in Brooklyn, with the Vermont senator accusing the former secretary of state of neglecting the Palestinians and reiterating his charge that Israel used disproportionate force in Gaza in 2014. Clinton said she worked hard to bring peace to the region as secretary of state. Clinton won the primary in New York, home to the country's largest Jewish population, 58-42 percent.

• A majority of professors at Oberlin College sign a letter condemning the "anti-Semitic Facebook posts" by a fellow faculty member. The letter, signed by 174 professors, does not name Joy Karega, the rhetoric and composition professor whose posts, including one accusing Israel and "Rothschild-led bankers" of responsibility for downing an airliner over Ukraine in 2014, draws widespread attention.



Pope Francis with Rabbi Riccardo Di Segni during his visit to Auschwitz.

• The first same-sex Jewish wedding ceremony in Latin America is held at a synagogue in Argentina. Some 300 guests attend the wedding of Victoria Escobar and Romina Charur at the NCI Emanu El Temple in Buenos Aires.

May 2016

• Bernie Sanders names three prominent critics of Israel to the committee charged with formulating the Democratic Party platform: Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., the first Muslim elected to Congress; James Zogby, the president of the Arab American Institute; and Cornel West, a philosopher and supporter of the BDS movement. Days later, Sanders releases a statement emphasizing that while he supports Israel's right to live in peace, lasting peace will not come without "fair and respectful treatment of the Palestinian people."

• In an announcement timed to the annual independence celebrations in Israel, the nation's Central Bureau of Statistics reports the population has risen to 8.52 million residents, a tenfold increase over the 806,000 at the time of Israel's founding in 1948.

• Morley Safer, a 46-year veteran of the CBS newsmagazine "60 Minutes," dies at 84 a week after retiring from the show. Safer, the winner of 12 Emmy Awards, helped turn American public opinion against the Vietnam War with his coverage of U.S. atrocities.

• Sheldon Adelson, the casino magnate and major backer of Republican candidates, endorses Donald Trump for the presidency.

In an op-ed in The Washington Post, Adelson cites Trump's executive experience and the threat of a "third term" for President Obama if Hillary Clinton is elected. Adelson plans to spend more than ever on the 2016 presidential election, even in excess of $100 million, The New York Times reports.

• Julia Ioffe, a reporter who wrote a critical profile of Donald Trump's wife, Melania, is deluged with anti-Semitic phone calls and messages on social media, including a cartoon of a Jew being executed. Ioffe files a police complaint about the threats.

• An 11-minute video showing what appears to be a Hasidic school principal sexually abusing a young boy refocuses attention on sex abuse in the haredi Orthodox community. The video, which prompts an investigation by state police, was filmed secretly from an overhead camera and posted on social media before being removed.

June 2016

• Rabbi Maurice Lamm, the author of "The Jewish Way in Death and Mourning" and several other notable Jewish books, dies. First issued in 1969, the book is considered a seminal work on the topic of Jewish death and mourning rituals.

• British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, already under fire over allegations of rampant anti-Semitism in his party, draws more criticism for seeming to compare Israel and the Islamic State terrorist group. "Our Jewish friends are no more responsible for the actions of Israel or the Netanyahu government than our Muslim friends are for those of various self-styled Islamic states or organizations," Corbyn said in remarks following the release of a report on anti-Semitism within Labour. The report found the party is not overrun by anti-Semitism but that there is an "occasionally toxic atmosphere."

• Hallel Yaffa Ariel, 13, is stabbed to death while sleeping in her bed in the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba by a Palestinian teenager. The attacker, Muhammad Nasser Tarayrah, had jumped the settlement fence and entered the sleeping girl's bedroom. He later is shot and killed by civilian guards.

• Israel and Turkey sign a reconciliation agreement six years after relations were cut off following an Israeli raid on the Mavi Marmara, a Turkish ship attempting to break Israel's blockade of Gaza.

Nine Turkish citizens were killed in the raid. Under the agreement, Israel will create a $20 million humanitarian fund as compensation to the families of the Mavi Marmara victims, which would not be released until Turkey passes legislation closing claims against the Israeli military for the deaths.

• Anti-Semitic incidents on American college campuses nearly doubled in 2015, the Anti-Defamation League reports.

A total of 90 incidents were reported on 60 college campuses in 2015, compared with 47 incidents on 43 campuses in 2014.

The ADL audit records a total of 941 anti-Semitic incidents in the United States in 2015, an increase of 3 percent over the previous year.

July 2016

• Pope Francis visits Auschwitz, where he prays in silent contemplation and meets with Holocaust survivors. Francis also visits the cell of Polish priest and saint Maximilian Kolbe, who died at Auschwitz after taking the place of a condemned man. Francis is the third pope to visit the camp, following the Polish-born John Paul II in 1979 and Pope Benedict XVI in 2006.

• Debbie Wasserman Schultz steps down as leader of the Democratic National Committee following the emergence of emails showing senior DNC staffers sought to undercut the campaign of Jewish presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders. One email, from Chief Financial Officer Brad Marshall, alleges that Sanders is an atheist and that it could be used against him. Marshall resigned in August.

• Bernie Sanders, the first Jew to win a major party presidential primary, endorses Hillary Clinton for president. At a rally in New Hampshire, Sanders said he would work with Clinton to keep Donald Trump from being elected.

• Goldie Michelson of Worcester, Massachusetts, the oldest living American, dies at home at the age of 113 and 11 months. Michelson, the daughter of Russian Jewish parents, immigrated with her family to Worcester when she was 2.

• Jared Kushner defends his father-in-law, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, from charges of anti-Semitism following the elder Trump's tweeting of an image of Hillary Clinton with a six-pointed star reminiscent of a Star of David over a background of dollar bills. The tweet is later deleted. "I know that Donald does not at all subscribe to any racist or anti-Semitic thinking," Kushner said.

• Elie Wiesel, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, author, activist and Holocaust survivor, dies at 87 of natural causes. Wiesel, who wrote "Night" and "The Jews of Silence," was well-known internationally for his books and as a leading voice of conscience.

• Israel's highest rabbinical court rejects a conversion performed by a prominent American rabbi, Haskel Lookstein. The conversion had been rejected originally in April by a court in the Tel Aviv suburb of Petach Tikvah. Lookstein, the former rabbi of Kehilath Jeshurun, a modern Orthodox synagogue on Manhattan's Upper East Side, performed the conversion of Ivanka Trump, the daughter of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

August 2016

• American gymnast Aly Raisman wins three medals at the Rio Olympics, a gold for the overall U.S. women's team and two individual silvers. Israel takes home two medals at the games, both bronze in judo, while American Jewish swimmer Anthony Ervin at 35 becomes the oldest person to win a gold medal in an individual swimming event. The Rio games also paid tribute to the 11 Israelis killed at the Munich Olympics in 1972.

• The Movement for Black Lives adopts a platform describing Israel as an "apartheid state" and claims it perpetrates "genocide" against the Palestinian people. The group, a coalition of 50 organizations that emerged from the Black Lives Matter movement, is criticized by Jewish organizations.



WE ARE READ – Our own financial writer, Barbara Kenerson, reading the Jewish Voice at the ruins of the Greek Temple of Apollo in Ortigia, the ancient center of Siracusa, the home of the oldest *mikveh* in Europe. This *mikveh* was filled by the fleeing Jews, who had continually lived there between 1000-2000 years. The entrance was sealed in 1492 when the Jews were banished from Sicily by King Ferdinand; it was not discovered until about 500 years later during a restoration project.



CONGRATULATIONS – A surprise party was held on Sept. 18 for Miriam Snell's 90th birthday. The party, given by her son, Jerry Snell, and held at the home of her daughter, Sheryl Moran, included four generations who came together to celebrate. Miriam entertained friends and family by playing the accordion, which she has played for more than 80 years.

SHARE YOUR JOYFUL EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS
by submitting them for Simchas or We Are Read publication in The Jewish Voice. Email to: editor@jewishallianceri.org or mail to: The Jewish Voice, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906



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