the JEWISH VOICE

Volume XXIII, Issue XIV | www.jvhri.org
Serving Rhode Island and
Southeastern Massachusetts

3 Elul 5777 | August 25, 2017

BACK TO SCHOOL

CELEBRATING 100 TOURO FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION 1918 1918 ~ 2018

Touro Fraternal celebrates 100 years

BY FRAN OSTENDORF

For 100 years, the Touro Fraternal Association has brought Jewish men together, offering a sense of community and belonging. Founded in 1917 and organized a year later, gatherings were social at first. Later, community service and philanthropy were added to the mix.

Today, its nearly 500 members are fathers and sons from all over Rhode Island, including newcomers to the area who are looking for friends or to get involved in the community in some way.

"Harmony, Friendship, Benevolence" is the group's slogan, prominently displayed on their website.

Jed Brandes, of Cranston, is the current chairman of the board of the Association, which claims the distinction of being the largest independent Jewish fraternal order in the Northeast. His journey to this post is typical for newcomers to Rhode Island and offers a glimpse into why Touro Fraternal has stayed strong and vital while other

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PHOTO | FRAN OSTENDORF

Adam Greenman in his office.
The milkshake machine is a memento from his grandparents' deli.

Meet Adam Greenman, the new head of the Alliance

BY FRAN OSTENDORF

Some of you might identify with Adam Greenman's road to the Alliance. Unaffiliated and living in Pawtucket, he wasn't particularly connected with the Jewish community in Rhode Island. But as a participant in the Alliance and Community Relations Council-sponsored mission to Israel for Rhode Island leaders in November 2015, he realized he missed the connection he had growing up in what he describes as a conservative/orthodox family in Philadelphia.

GREENMAN | 7

George Washington letter resonates at annual reading

BY SAM SHAMOON

NEWPORT – On this remarkable Aug. 20, about 200 people participated in a ceremony at the Touro Synagogue in which a Catholic nun and Muslim imam played leading roles. During this annual event, President George Washington's 1790 letter to the "Hebrew Congregation" of Newport is read and celebrated. Listeners were implored to be "upstanders" rather than bystanders in times like the present.

Sister Jane Gerety, president of Salve Regina University, in Newport, gave the invocation and noted that the promise of the first president is being unraveled by the current one. Sister Jane paraphrased Washington's words in the negative, noting that we are not able to sit in safety under our own vine and fig tree, and there are those who will make us afraid. But she also said that hope is at hand with events like the one at Touro and in Boston, where 40,000 who marched there protested bigotry and the persecution of minorities.

The same theme was sounded by Rhode Island General Treasurer Seth Magaziner, who recounted a personal and frightening brush with anti-Semitism and noted that our leaders must not draw moral equivalency between Nazis and those who protest against hatred. Magaziner went on to note that Rhode Island has been a bastion of religious freedom as the first state to open its doors to many faiths and creeds.

LETTER | 26

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THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE

"Rational arguments and facts are the best way to counter ideas we don't like."

Remembering survivors

With community input, the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Committee has been able to compile a collection of names of Holocaust survivors who made a life for themselves and their families in Rhode Island.

At a community ceremony, sponsored by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and the RI Holocaust Memorial Committee, on Aug. 28 at 4 p.m., these survivors, as well as the many more whose names have yet to be identified, will be honored. A list of names appears online at jvhri.org.

If you or your family's name is not part of this first wave of engravings, please contact Michelle Cicchitelli, mcicchitelli @jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 178.



PHOTOS | FRAN OSTENDORF

A few of the many names collected.



Names are sandblasted into the stone.





This memorial stands as a tribute to our survivors.



Super Sunday set for Sept. 17

BY STEPHANIE HAGUE

As summer changes to fall, beach days drift away and students prepare for school, the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island is gearing up for its biggest fundraising day of the year, Super Sunday.

Every year, the greater Rhode Island community comes together in support of the Alliance's Annual Campaign and the more than 300 programs it funds annually. This year, Aaron and Hillary Guttin will host Super Sunday as representatives of two Alliance-supported agencies, Camp JORI and the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island.

This year's Super Sunday, on Sept. 17, will also launch "100 Days of Impact," a community-wide effort to raise critical dollars for the campaign between Super Sunday and Dec. 31.



Hillary and Aaron Guttin.

The Guttins have been busy this summer at Camp JORI, where Aaron is the assistant director and Hillary is an educator, and are also involved in (401)j, the Alliance's initiative for the next generation – but that hasn't stopped them from planning an exciting day for our community.

"Super Sunday is a time for our Jewish community as a whole to come together and support each other," Hillary Guttin said. "We are all working toward the same goal, so it's very important for all local Jewish organizations to unify around this important day."

Super Sunday marks the kick-off of the 2018 Annual Campaign, co-chaired by Susan Froehlich and Jamie Pious. They shared, "Super Sunday acts as an exciting day to catalyze our community around *tzedakah* in order to support our many programs and beneficiary agencies. Hillary and Aaron are a great asset to our community as volunteers and community professionals, and we are excited they will bring this commitment to Super Sunday."

Aaron Guttin said, "We hope you can join us between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Super Sunday as we raise essential dollars for the community we all love so much."

Whether you make phone calls on Super Sunday, volunteer in other ways to support the day or answer the call, you are adding to the strength of our community in Rhode Island and around the world.

TO LEARN MORE about Super Sunday and the Jewish Alliance's Annual Campaign or to donate online, go to jewishallianceri.org.

TO VOLUNTEER for Super Sunday, make your gift before Super Sunday or get more information, contact Michele Gallagher at 401-421-4111, ext. 165, or mgallagher@jewishallianceri.org.

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

A summer memory

BY MAY-RONNY ZEIDMAN

Each morning I try to sit on my front porch with a cup of coffee and watch and listen to the sounds of early morning as the world around me wakes up. It is such a peaceful experience which sets the stage for my day.

I often hear the sounds of people walking or running together. I love to hear the sound of their voices as they talk or laugh breaking through the morning silence.

I am reminded of my friend Sandy Friedman who lived a block away from my house. She would pick me up at 6 a.m. and we would walk and talk. Sometimes we would laugh or cry, depending on what was happening in our lives.

Sandy came into my life quite by accident. She was out walking with a neighbor one morning. As they approached my house, her neighbor said, "Lets stop in at May's house, she just had a baby." The evening before was the *bris* of my second son. It was loud and noisy with possibly 100 people in attendance. When everyone left, my house was in total disarray.

That morning, I did not know where to begin; I had a 6 year old and an 8-day-old baby. What do I do first; who do I take care of first?

The doorbell rang, and I let these two women in. They looked at the new baby with wonderful mother eyes. After they had enough of the baby, Sandy said, "We cannot leave this woman with a house that looks like this." And she began helping me put my home back in order. In a short time, all the serving pieces were put away, counters were clean and everything was in order. I did not have words to thank these women for their help.

From that morning on, Sandy and I became fast friends. There is no way I can recount the cups of coffee and visits we've shared in good friendship. Sandy was there for me when I lost my husband, and she was there for me when I remarried.

Sandy is 10 years older than me, and I remember each August around her birthday when she would leave my house, she would say, "Do you think I look ___?" And we would laugh. I cannot believe that this began a mere 48 years ago.

When Sandy moved from the neighborhood, there were no more walks and very few visits. However, when I sit on the porch on summer mornings, I hear friends walking and talking and the memories burst from deep inside of me, and I am walking with Sandy again as if it were yesterday.

MAY-RONNY ZEIDMAN is the executive director of the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center in Providence.

New Tel Aviv-Jerusalem rail undergoes first test run

JNS.ORG – The highly anticipated Tel Aviv-Jerusalem railway embarked on its maiden voyage Sunday [Aug. 20], in the first successful test run of the new rail link connecting the major Israeli cities, Israel's Channel 2 reported.

The test runs and infrastructure work on the new rail link are expected to last about a week and have shuttered three of Tel Aviv's main stations, causing significant delays for Israeli commuters who must turn to alternative means of transport amid the upgrades.

Sunday's trial run was conducted with a 1,200-ton freight train used to test the strength of the recently constructed bridges and rails along the new 37-mile high-speed route.

Using the new rail line, passengers can travel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in 28 minutes.

"This will ensure Jerusalem's status and will give people the ability to live in it, to set up businesses, and will completely change the connection between Jerusalem and the rest of the state of Israel," said Israeli Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz.

The Tel Aviv-Jerusalem rail, a $1.8 billion project, will debut in April 2018. When fully operational, the rail will reach speeds of 100 miles per hour.



Intriguing novels explored at Hadassah's annual Books on the Beach

BY CYNTHIA BENJAMIN

NEWPORT – Writer Alyson Richman says she often inhabits a long-ago world – and she brought that world to Hadassah Rhode Island's Books on the Beach fundraiser held on Aug. 9 at Oceancliff.

After lunch, and plenty of schmoozing and admiring the spectacular views of Narragansett Bay, the 135 women who attended the annual event turned their attention to the speakers, Richman and Joanna Rakoff.

Richman said research is at the heart of writing good historical fiction. She learned to be a thorough researcher from her father, an electrical engineer, and her mother, an abstract artist who also taught Richman "to see the world through an artistic lens."

Combining those skills has led Richman to international success as the author of six novels, including the beloved "The Lost Wife" and her newest, "The Velvet Hours."

Inspired by true events, "The Velvet Hours" delves into the mystery surrounding a Paris apartment that was sealed off at the beginning of World War II – and remained that way for nearly 70 years. The lavish, intriguing historical novel explores the Belle Epoch, the stress of the coming German occupation as well as "art, beauty, history and questions," Richman told the women.

Joanna Rakoff, author of "My Salinger Year," read excerpts from her book after an entertaining talk about how she ended up in New York City in the 1990s, a grad school dropout who was hired to work as a personal assistant to author J.D. Salinger's literary agent. The funny thing is, Rakoff didn't have a clue about Salinger's work. "My Salinger Year" details how Salinger's novels, short stories and fan mail helped Rakoff find herself. The highly acclaimed book has received many honors, including being named an Oprah.com Summer Must Read Book.

But for all her honors, Rakoff noted, "Nothing is as exciting to my mother as when I'm speaking to a Hadassah chapter."

Since its founding more than 100 years ago, reading, studying and discussion groups have been integral to Hadassah, an advocate for community programs and health facilities and initiatives in Israel, as well as women's rights. Hadassah, which has 330,000 members in the U.S. alone, is one of the largest international Jewish organizations in the world.



PHOTO | BARBARA KENERSON

A contingent of avid readers from Congregation Beth David, Narragansett, attended Books on the Beach.

After the authors spoke, the women in attendance eagerly lined up to buy signed copies of "The Velvet Hours" and "My Salinger Year " – and Books on the Beach Co-Chairs Lorraine Rappoport and Betty Ann Israelit declared the seventh annual event a success.

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



PHOTOS | CYNTHIA BENJAMIN

The room at Oceancliff was packed with book lovers for Hadassah's annual event.





After speaking about their writings, the featured authors signed books.

the JEWISH VOICE

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THE JEWISH VOICE (ISSN number 1539-2104, USPS #465-710) is published bi-weekly, except in July, when it does not publish.

PERIODICALS Postage paid at Providence, R.I.

POSTMASTER Send address changes to: The Jewish Voice, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

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401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906.
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MEMBER of the Rhode Island Press Assn. and the American Jewish Press Assn.

COPY DEADLINES: All news releases, photographs, etc., must be received on the Wednesday 10 days prior to publication. Submissions may be sent to: editor@jewishallianceri.org.

ADVERTISING: We do not accept advertisements for pork or shellfish. We do not attest to the *kashrut* of any product or the legitimacy of our advertisers' claims.

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Meet Rabbi Sol Goodman, the new head of education at Temple Sinai

BY SAM SERBY

Rabbi Sol Goodman, 69, the new education director at Temple Sinai, in Cranston, was born and raised in Chicago. He holds a bachelor's degree from Roosevelt University, in Chicago, and a master's from Hebrew Union College, in Los Angeles. In 1980, he was ordained by Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati.

Rabbi Goodman spent four years in Israel pursuing graduate studies in Bible and education, with an emphasis on curriculum development for language learning.

He has served universities, prisons, health-care facilities and other communities across the country as a spiritual leader, educator and chaplain.

In addition to preparing area B'nai Mitzvah students, Rabbi Goodman is the senior chaplain at the Yawgoog Boy Scout Reservation, in Rockville. For the past 17 years, he has tended to the spiritual needs of over 6,000 campers and adults of all faiths, from across America and around the world.

Rabbi Goodman has four adult children and lives with his wife in East Providence.

He recently answered a few questions for The Voice.

Q: Favorite Jewish food?
A: Chicken matzo ball soup.

Q: Favorite Jewish holiday?
A: Passover. All of the foods that we [his family] make are so special. I make a "fruited matzo," which my family always asks for. You can have so much fun making and creating all the variations to the Passover seder. It's always timely. Every year, there's something different about it.

Q: Favorite Jewish song?
A: "Dugit," a lullaby that I sang to my children.

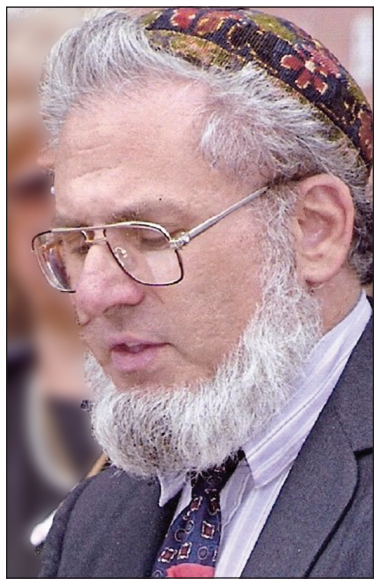
Q: Favorite Jewish movie?
A: "Sallah," an Israeli film, and "Hester Street."

Q: Favorite Jewish celebrity?
A: Jon Stewart.

Q: Favorite Israeli city to visit?
A: Eilat. The sun, the warmth, the heat, and all of those qualities are very special. And, it is right on the [Red] Sea.

Q: Favorite Israeli city to live?
A: Jerusalem, hands down. There is just something about walking the stones of Jerusalem. There is no other place like it in the world. You get there and it gets under your skin and it stays with you forever.

Q: Favorite Hebrew word?
A: "*Sababa*," [which means] great, wonderful, awesome, terrific. I teach it at Boy Scout camp and they all know when I ask "How are you?" to say "*sababa*," sometimes hundreds of them at once.



Rabbi Sol Goodman

Q: Favorite Yiddish word?
A: "*Mensch*," a good person. I had a Yiddish-speaking Jewish grandmother and she taught me to be a *mensch* and to enjoy my life and the world, acknowledging where it all came from.

Q: Best part of keeping Kosher, worst/most difficult part of keeping Kosher?
A: Best part: The best part of keeping Kosher is learning to understand that what goes into your body should be acknowledged, and it influences what comes out: What goes into your mouth affects what comes out of your mouth. It is not only a physical experience because we need food, but it is also a spiritual experience. We learn to understand that even the act of eating can have lessons to teach us about who we are and how we need to live.

Worst/most difficult part: It takes an extra level of care, discipline and mindfulness.

Q: Favorite part of being a rabbi?
A: Being able to share my traditions in a way that serves as a model to others and allows me to connect with other people.

Q: Favorite Jewish memory?
A: I had a 90-year-old uncle who used to conduct our Passover seders, and he would come and stay with my family all of Passover. He would do the seder all in Hebrew, all the way through. We spent a lot of time together. He was a real character, and we loved him for it. I will always remember that.

Q: Best advice someone has given you, and who gave it to you?
A: [From his] grandmother: "Be thankful and be a *mensch*."

Q: If you could have three dinner guests, living or from history, who would they be?
A: Eliezer Ben-Yehuda – he was the father of the Jewish language. [Israeli writer/poet] Amos Oz – I love his poetry. Job from the Bible – I would like to have asked him how he managed [through tremendous adversity].

Q: You have just been named education director of Temple Sinai, in Cranston. What excites you about this opportunity? What are your plans for the future of Jewish education at Temple Sinai?
A: I taught in the religious school at Temple Sinai for over 10 years, mostly with B'nai Mitzvah kids. Temple Sinai has encountered a period of transition, with their previous education director leaving. My wife and I have been at Temple Sinai for a very long time, and we're very closely bonded to this particular congregation and community.

This is a great opportunity which enables me to do work that I love and to help while the congregation decides what their next direction is going to be. We are about to introduce some new teaching programs, and I think that will be exciting in the future. We're going to see how those go, and how they develop, and have a new adventure in learning and education.

Q: How long have you been working in education and as the chaplain at the Yawgoog Boy Scout camp?
A: I have been working in Jewish education since I was 17, making it over 50 years. I have been at the Yawgoog Boy Scout camp for the past 17 summers. I enjoy working with the Scouts because, in my view, scouting has a great potential to create "*menschen*," and that's what I talk about and teach there.

In the 17 years that I've been at the camp, there has never been a racial, religious or political argument. Not one. And, I think it's because scouting makes a very strong point of values – to be respectful, loyal and kind.

Q: What are your thoughts about the incidents in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the vandalizing of the New England Holocaust Memorial, in Boston?
A: It's appalling, what can I say? I think, unfortunately, these events have occurred because there is a current climate which has allowed people to believe they have a license to behave in this fashion. I think that we are at a time that is reminiscent of times when public rhetoric has facilitated the unleashing of these forces of hatred and bigotry. Really, we have no one who has publicly disavowed any of this, and I think that is why it is so disturbing.

We [Jews] have a tradition that we do not stand idly by while our neighbor bleeds. We cannot remain silent. We're at a time when too many in leadership in this country have stood silently when they should be condemning and distancing themselves from this behavior and anyone who, by language or by deed, would support this.

Unfortunately, people will say that this is how it started in Nazi Germany, and that is what is most frightening. I think people need to be even more vigilant and speak louder about the dangers that can arise. I don't know where that leadership is right now. It is nonexistent. When the former head of the KKK [David Duke] says "we put you in office" and does not get a response, that is terrifying.

By his [the president's] silence, he is complicit. If the representatives of this country cannot rise up as one and condemn this behavior, which is toxic for this country, it is beyond words.

I think one of the greatest scenes of that march in Charlottesville was seeing all of these clergy people marching arm in arm while these militiamen were standing on the sidewalk. The clergy people faced their backs to the marchers in the street, and I think the entire country needs to stand up and turn their backs on these people as well.

SAM SERBY is a freelance writer who lives in East Greenwich. He previously worked at the Peres Center for Peace in Tel Aviv.



Pursue justice justly

How do you know when your zeal for righteousness has veered into the realm of self-righteousness? How do you know when you have become so enthusiastic about what you believe that you have closed yourself off from every opinion but your own?



RABBI JEFFREY GOLDWASSER

Our nation's politics have moved from partisanship to hyper-partisanship. It has become too easy for people on all sides to confuse the pursuit of justice with the pursuit of just winning. It is hard to remember that there is a difference. It is hard today for us to remember to listen to what people who disagree with us are saying.

But we have to try. Partisan extremism is actually leading to violence. (I am thinking about the killing of a counter-protester against white supremacists this month, and also the shooting of Republican members of Congress on a baseball field in June.) We need to consider how vehemence can lead to hatred, and how hatred can drive some people to terrible action. Rational arguments and facts are the best way to counter ideas we don't like. They are not only more persuasive than insults and innuendoes, they are actually healthier for our society and our world.

This week's Torah portion (*Shoftim*) includes a verse that is a favorite of Jews who are committed to social action: "Justice, justice you shall pursue, that you may live and inherit the land which *Adonai* your God gives you" (Deuteronomy 16:20). This verse is read as a clarion call for doing everything in our power to fight for what is right and to deplore evil. What could go wrong with fighting for right over evil?

"Remember that your rivals also are human beings who believe that they are pursuing justice."

Plenty. We should be careful about our certainty that we can tell the difference. In our zeal, we sometimes forget that even the pursuit of righteousness must be conducted with righteousness. No argument or position is so just that it justifies a hateful response to its opponents.

Rabbi Zev Wolf of Zbaraz, a 19th-century Ukrainian hassidic leader, had a novel interpretation of the verse to remind us of this truth. He read the doubling of the word "justice" as a sign of self-righteous zeal. He said:

There are many ways that our evil inclination conspires to ensnare us. Just as we sometimes trick ourselves into acting maliciously, we sometimes also entice ourselves into sin by being excessively righteous. We try to be "holier than thou." This is why the Torah warns, "Justice, justice – meaning, excessive justice – you will pursue." You must chase away that inclination, for sometimes that, too, is the way of the evil inclination. Do not be too righteous. (Itturei Torah, vol. 6, p. 110)

Be careful with your zeal. Remember that your rivals also are human beings who believe that they are pursuing justice. The moment that we cast ourselves in the role of the holier-than-thou exemplar of justice and righteousness, we become victims of our desire to win and to be right, rather than servants of what is truly just.

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



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Send to: editor@jewishallianceri.org

Candle Lighting Times

Greater Rhode Island

August 25	7:12
September 1	7:01
September 8	6:49
September 15	6:35



Our Rosh Hashanah issue is Sept. 8 – reserve your holiday ad or greeting space now.

There is something very special about the High Holy Days

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

Tickets are now available for the following High Holy Days:

Erev Rosh Hashanah, *September 20*
First day of Rosh Hashanah, *September 21*
Second day of Rosh Hashanah, *September 22*
Erev Yom Kippur, *September 29*
Yom Kippur, *September 30*

Who is eligible?

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

Tickets will be available through September 14 at 3pm.
For more information call the AccessJewishRI.org warm-line and speak with one of our Community Concierges at 401.421.4111 ext. 411, or email them at concierge@jewishallianceri.org.

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

Participating Congregations:

Congregation Agudas Achim, *Attleboro*
Congregation Beth David, *Narragansett*
Congregation Beth Sholom*, *Providence*
Congregation B'nai Israel, *Woonsocket*
Congregation Or Chadash, *Cranston*
Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh, *Providence*
Congregation Sha'arei Tefilla*, *Providence*
Congregation Sons of Jacob, *Providence*
Newport Havurah*, *Newport*
Temple Beth-El, *Providence*
Temple Emanu-El, *Providence*
Temple Habonim**, *Barrington*
Temple Shalom, *Middletown*
Temple Sinai, *Cranston*
Temple Torat Yisrael, *East Greenwich*
Touro Synagogue, *Newport*
United Brothers, *Bristol*
West Bay Community Jewish Center, *Warwick*

**No tickets needed: High Holy Day services are open to everyone.*
***Temple Habonim has an open door policy without tickets or prior communication being necessary.*

שנה טובה

Jewish Alliance OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

FROM PAGE 1

GREENMAN

Now, as the new president and CEO of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, Greenman wants to make sure that everyone knows about the organization and its work, and that they are welcome at the Alliance's Dwares Jewish Community Center, in Providence.

He says he hopes "if they haven't been here in awhile, that they'll stop by."

Greenman, 35, who started work Aug. 1, is passionate about his new favorite cause – growing the number of Jews who feel more connected to and become more active in the Jewish community.

Two weeks into his tenure, he sat down with The Voice for a conversation about his expectations, goals and where he's come from.

Greenman says his role at the Alliance is a dream job because it allows him to connect in a professional way to an identity that's become more relevant to him since the mission to Israel.

"Personal and professional interests aligned to put me here. I'm fortunate. Not everyone gets that opportunity," he says.

Greenman previously worked in secular nonprofits, including as executive vice president at United Way of Rhode Island. He and his wife, Erin Dube, moved to Rhode Island from Camden, New Jersey, eight years ago. Both were teachers there. They met while employed by Teach for America.

Dube is on the Pawtucket School Committee. Daughters Alexandria, 8, and Norah, 5, attend the Potter Burns Elementary School.

Greenman says his children are his most important accomplishment to date. "Family is everything," he said, adding, "The welcome we've gotten here as a family is amazing."

Starting at the end of eighth grade and through high school, Greenman worked at Greenman's Deli, his grandparents' Jewish deli in Philadelphia, a job he said that taught him a lot about getting along with people.

He attended George Washington University and found an on-campus Jewish student group there not as welcoming as he'd expected. He just didn't feel Jewish enough, he says, and that's when he began to separate from the Jewish community.

Greenman had little connection to his Jewishness while earning a master's degree in public administration from Rutgers University and an Ed.D. in educational leadership from Northeastern University.

But since his trip to Israel,



Adam Greenman, right, with former CEO Jeffrey Savit on the Alliance mission to Israel in 2015.

Greenman said he is excited and energized to reconnect with his heritage – and he's already had some experiences that demonstrate that the Alliance and the JCC are the kind of welcoming community he wished he had found at college.

Alexandria went to J-Camp during Greenman's first week in his new job and, he says, came home every day with a big smile on her face. "There's no better endorsement for our programming," he says.

Greenman says his first order of business is to get out and meet people in the community.

"It's a priority to me to hear from folks," he says. "I'm going to get out to the synagogues and the community. I'm going to meet as many people as I can." And that includes people who may not be connected to the community, but should be, he stresses.

The Pawtucket resident acknowledges that not living on the East Side, near the Alliance offices at the Dwares JCC, is a reminder that the Alliance serves the Jewish community all over the state.

"We have a beautifully renovated building [the Dwares JCC]. You couldn't ask for more as a new CEO. But it's incumbent on us to get out and about.

"People have to get in their cars to come to 401 Elmgrove, so let's get in our cars and go see them."

He's also looking at ways to advance the organization.

"We need to be more inclusive," he says. "We need to be open to everyone in the community, regardless of how they celebrate their faith or connect with their Jewish identity."

And he said we should examine how the Jewish community connects to the greater Rhode Island community, how we demonstrate basic values like *tikkun olam*. "It's important to understand our role."

In the coming months, Greenman plans to create a strategic plan for the Alliance that builds on the past, includes the Alliance's purpose now, and sets goals. And he'll make sure that there's input from all corners of the community.

"I'm passionate and dedicated to the work I do," Greenman says. "I really care about the future of the Jewish community."

FRAN OSTENDORF (fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org) is the editor of The Jewish Voice.

Temple Beth-El's Tonya Glantz honored for excellence in Jewish education

BY LARRY KATZ

Tonya Glantz, a pre-K teacher at Temple Beth-El, is the winner of this past academic year's Jenny Klein Memorial/Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education.

The Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island partner annually to honor outstanding Jewish educators in the greater Rhode Island area who make a lasting impact on the lives of Jewish children and contribute to excellence in Jewish education.

Sarah Mack, rabbi at Temple Beth-El, says teaching young children at the Providence synagogue is a unique experience for Glantz "because she spends most of her daily life working with adults. Professionally, she is a college professor who has a masters of social work and a Ph.D. in education."

Glantz, who teaches at Rhode Island College and at Johnson & Wales University, says "teaching young children is about joy and discovery and building a Jewish identity through our class adventures and friends. This awareness really inspired me to embrace *mitzvot* as the central focus of my curriculum, where holidays and festivals



Tonya Glantz

afford opportunities to bring *mitzvot* to life.

"As a class, we explore concepts related to different *mitzvot*, build knowledge through exploration and imagination, and strengthen what each mitzvah means by engaging in activity that brings kindness, care and Jewish values to life in the children's temple community, family and the world."

Rabbi Mack also says that Glantz "has been on our faculty for a long time and serves as a great resource to other teachers, offering ideas, opportunities to work together and constructive criticism."

The award, which includes a $500 honorarium from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and $1,000 from the Jewish Alliance for a professional development program, will be presented on Sept. 6 at the Joseph and Leba Zelniker Conference at the Alliance's Dwares Jewish Community Center, in Providence.

The topic of the conference is experiential education. Coincidentally, in her part of the nomination process, Glantz wrote that "what I learned from my wonderful [pre-K] students is that being Jewish is about experience and action and making personal meaning out of what is being learned." This theme will be emphasized at the conference.

The Jenny Klein Memorial Teacher Award was established by the Alperin-Hirsch Family to recognize an outstanding teacher in area religious schools. It pays tribute to one of the community's premier veteran educators. When she was 91, Klein recalled how she was chosen to be a teacher in New York at the age of 16. She was still teaching 75 years later. As one of her students Ruth (Duffy) Page says, "She took her mandate seriously, and she took her Judaism seriously, and she took us seriously …. She was a Jewish role model."

The North American Grinspoon Awards for Excellence in Jewish Education have recognized over 800 outstanding educators in the U.S. and Canada since 2000. Today the award celebrates successful innovation in Jewish education through a partnership between the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the participating community.

For additional information, visit www.hgf.org/teacher-awards.

LARRY KATZ (lkatz@jewishallianceri.org) is the director of Jewish life and learning at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

The Jewish Voice inspires a sense of community among its readers.

86% say that reading
The Jewish Voice
makes them feel
more connected
to their local community.

Information gathered from our April 2017 survey.

Now is the time to unite against hate



EDITOR

FRAN OSTENDORF

It's hard to know what to make of national and world events since the last Jewish Voice was published.

Barcelona, Charlottesville, Turku, Boston.

How can I lump these together? Taken through a media lens and/or a Jewish lens, they all evoke similar, disturbing issues: Hate, terror, anti-Semitism, racism, tragedy, fear.

Who could have imagined that in 2017 we would be seeing large crowds marching in a U.S. city – and past a synagogue – under the Nazi flag?

How do we wake up, move forward and talk to our kids? How do we explain all the different issues in this confusing and frightening landscape? How do we even begin to understand all this ourselves?

Both of my grandmothers, whom I knew pretty well, were born and raised in the United States. I didn't hear about the Holocaust from family members, like some people my age. My knowledge was gleaned from religious school studies and later school history classes, so it was much less personal for me than for some people I know.

But we all knew about anti-Semitism in the U.S. from stories about places Jews weren't welcomed. Many Jewish institutions and organizations were formed because a similar group didn't welcome Jewish people.

Most of our children, thankfully, haven't had this experience. Now, with the marches and the demonstrations, this kind of hate is in their faces via television and the internet.

What can we say to explain and ease fears?

There's a lot of good advice out there, and most of it is general and nonjudgmental. The judgment has to come from your own values and heart.

The Anti-Defamation League, which has a long history of fighting for civil rights, offers the following simple advice for discussing hate with young people in what it terms "safe and effective" ways:

- Be alert for signs of distress in children: Fear, withdrawal, etc.
- Prepare yourself: Remain calm and try to put aside your own distress.
- Treat all young people's questions with respect: Don't ignore a question or discussion.
- Be open to talking about why these incidents take place: Try not to impose your own bias.
- Focus on helpers: In the case of chaotic incidents and terrorist attacks, who helped? What can you do to help?

You can find many other sources of information for understanding and having an open discussion about hate. Ignoring the kinds of hostility we've seen in recent weeks isn't the answer. Hatred needs to be confronted.

Even politically and ethnically diverse factions should be able to agree on a stance against hate. Maybe it would help cool the political dialogue, which has become so polarized and divisive. We all need to dial it down a notch so we can focus on the real evil.

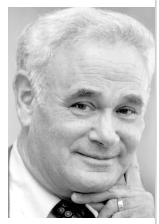
Monday, we proved that people can gather peacefully with a common purpose despite our different beliefs. The total solar eclipse brought millions outside across the country to watch a once-in-a-lifetime event in total, collective awe. We weren't liberal or conservative, Jewish or Christian, Trump or anti-Trump, immigrant or native born. We were just humans sharing Earth together.

That's the kind of perspective change that can go a long way.

Errata

On page 22 of the Aug. 11 Jewish Voice, the name of the Chased Shel Amess Association was spelled incorrectly. The Voice apologizes for the error.

We should celebrate Jewish diversity, not let it divide us



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

I set foot in Israel for the first time in June 1965. I had just turned 21 and was to spend most of my summer volunteering at K'far Menachem, a *Mapam* (seriously socialist) *kibbutz* located roughly in the center of the triangle formed by Tel Aviv, Beer Sheba and Jerusalem, before entering my senior year at Columbia College.

Not long after landing at the rather shabby Lud International Airport (now Ben Gurion International Airport), a couple of members of K'far Menachem met me and the two American teenage girls with whom I had been traveling.

Before we climbed into the back of their truck for the ride to the *kibbutz*, one of the *kibbutzniks* told me in slow, comprehensible Hebrew, "*Im atah rotseh l'hiyot Yehudi*, *atah tsarikh lagur po u'l'daber Ivrit*" – if you really want to be a Jew, you must live here and speak Hebrew.

The fact that I was planning to apply to rabbinical school and eventually become a rabbi in the Reform Movement did not seem to impress him. The root, the very essence of Jewish identity, from this young man's perspective, was land and language – the land of Israel and the language of Hebrew.

It is no accident that these Hebrew words have stuck with me for more than 50 years, for it was at that moment that I realized that the Jewish identity of an American cannot be that of an Israeli Jew.

To state the obvious: we American Jews do not live in Israel and do not speak Hebrew as our language of daily discourse. We call America our land and speak English as we go about our lives. We are citizens of the United States. Because we live in the diaspora – that is, outside Israel – our Jewish identity is ethnic and/or religious, but not national. By way of contrast, many Israelis experience their identity within nationalist parameters as Israeli citizens.

Some Israelis view those of us in the diaspora as second-class Jews, deprived of the benefits and responsibilities of living in the world's only Jewish state. Such Israelis see the diaspora not as the *t'futzah*, a neutral Hebrew term derived from the root meaning "to be scattered," but as *galut*, exile. Since most of us American Jews reject the notion that we are in exile, we are miffed when certain Israelis continue to insist that we are living in *galut*.

If we want to understand why American Jews and Israelis sometimes disappoint each other when we get up close and personal, we might reflect on a painful dynamic of intimate human relationships: More often than we might care to admit, our so-called love for another is nothing more than a projection of our own fantasies upon the loved one.

As we mature in our relationships, we come to understand that we cannot change each other; we realize that we cannot make each other over to fit our preconceived fantasies.

Similarly, we American and Israeli Jews need to stop projecting our fantasies upon each other; we need to stop blaming each other for failing to meet our impossible dreams for each other.

It is naïve and crippling for American Jews to attempt to live vicarious Jewish lives through proxy heroes in Israel; likewise, Israeli Jews do not need to conform to our illusions of how they ought to be Jews.

By the same token, it is equally fatuous for Israelis to condemn the majority of the world's Jews for refusing to "get real" by living a Hebrew-speaking life in *Eretz Yisrael*.

One of the greatest early Zionist thinkers, Ahad Ha'am (1856-1927), had a vision of how the Jews of *Eretz Yisrael* and the Jews of the diaspora might live with each other in a healthy, creative and mutually supportive way. Ahad Ha'am saw the Jewish community in the land of Israel as a potential *merkaz ruchani*, a cultural center that would enrich and nourish Jewish life throughout the world. At the same time, Jews in the diaspora would contribute culturally, politically and economically to life in the cultural center. This would work beautifully since a wheel cannot be a wheel without a hub and a rim.

As Jews throughout the world look forward to Israel's 70th birthday in April, let us all draw inspiration from Ahad Ha'am's vision of Israel as a cultural center and the diaspora as a responsive rim. If we are to survive as a united but pluralistic people, we need to acknowledge that we do need each other. We need to celebrate who we really are: Jews – in all our diversity – trying to make some sense out of our complex lives as we march together into our shared but multifaceted future.

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

Israel expresses solidarity with Finland after country's first Islamic terror attack

JNS.org – The Israeli Foreign Ministry expressed solidarity with the Finnish people Monday [Aug. 21], several days after the European nation experienced what has been recorded as its first deadly Islamic terror attack.

"The Israeli government expresses its shock and strongly condemns the terrorist attack in the city of Turku last Friday," the Israeli ministry said.

In the attack, an 18-year-old Moroccan man, Abderrahman Mechkah, fatally stabbed two women and wounded eight others before police shot and injured him. Finnish authorities are treating the incident as an act of terrorism.

The jihadist attack in Finland resembles the Palestinian terror attacks that are frequently carried out against Israelis, often involving stabbings, car-rammings and shootings.

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).

Letter

Charlottesville

When hatred and intolerance appear in our midst, we have an obligation to name it clearly and unambiguously. We have an obligation to use language to clarify, not to obfuscate. We have an obligation to take action.

The organizers of the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville on Aug. 11 and 12 included America's leading neo-Nazi, white-supremacist, KKK and Alt-Right organizations. It can hardly be surprising that the rally ended in violence.

On Aug. 12, a white-supremacist activist drove a car into a crowd of counter-protesters and killed Heather Heyer and injured 19 others in an act of terrorism. Two Virginia state troopers were killed when their helicopter crashed as they were flying to assist with security.

We cannot equivocate. Hatred was the root cause of the violence and murder. President Trump's statement equating the rally's racist, anti-Semitic and xenophobic leaders with the counter-protestors is unacceptable.

We join with a broad range of Rhode Islanders who embrace the American values of liberty and justice for all. Together, we work in coalition to send the clear message: Hate has no place here.

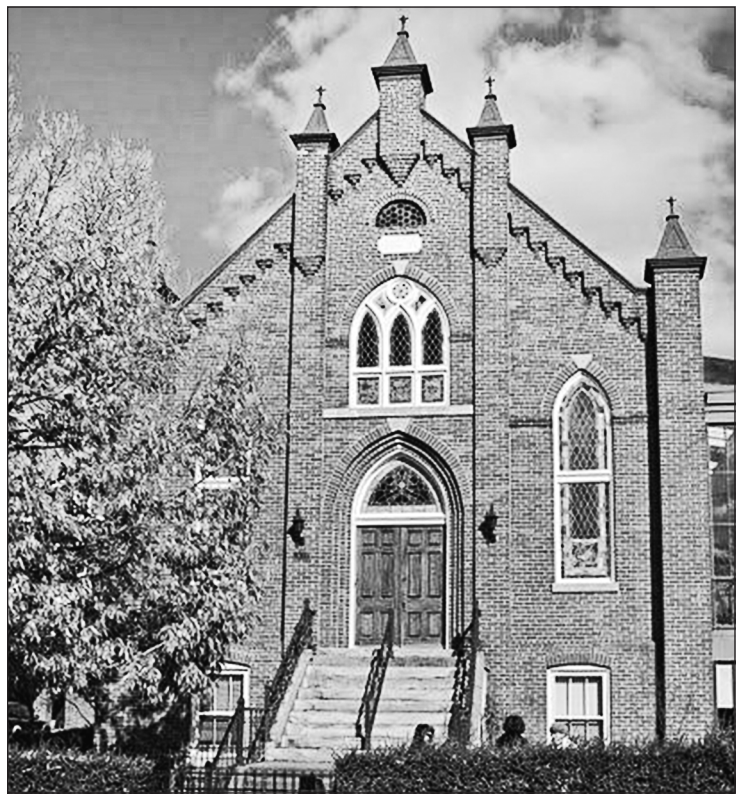
As a community, Jews know what happens when hatred goes unchallenged. Our history is a lesson to the world that when a society stands indifferent to the message that some people are inherently inferior and undesirable – Blacks, Latinos, Jews, Muslims, LGBTQ people, immigrants and so on – hatred and fear will become tools to manipulate the masses.

We must never allow that to happen again. We join with the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island in the message that we must "dismantle hate – be it through education, advocacy, public forums or the sharing of expertise and funding." We ask other people of conscience to join in that effort.

Rabbi Sarah Mack
Rabbi Jeffrey Goldwasser
Rabbi Leora Abelson
Rabbi Ethan Adler
Rabbi Thomas Alpert
Rabbi Jonathan Brumberg-Kraus
Rabbi Michelle Dardashti
Rabbi Barry Dolinger
Rabbi Mark Elber
Rabbi Alan Flam
Rabbi Wayne Franklin
Rabbi Leslie Gutterman
Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer
Rabbi Andrew Klein
Rabbi Adam Lavitt
Rabbi Benjamin Lefkowitz
Rabbi Richard Perlman
Rabbi James B. Rosenberg
Rabbi Gavi Ruit
Rabbi Jacqueline R. Satlow
Rabbi Lawrence Silverman
Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman
Rabbi Alex Weissman
Rabbi Rachel Zerin
For the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island

Charlottesville offers lifesaving lessons for American Jews

BY ABRAHAM H. MILLER/JNS.ORG



Congregation Beth Israel synagogue in Charlottesville.

Jews are asking if we're back in the 1920s. To me, the scene outside a Charlottesville synagogue is more like Odessa in 1905.

Across from the synagogue stood three white supremacists with semi-automatic weapons. During the Friday night torchlight parade that passed the synagogue, the alt-right marchers, hands in the salute formation, hurled slogans reminiscent of the Nazi era.

The armed men in fatigues looked as if they were ready to carry out the threats.

The police were called. They did not show. Did the city council want blood spilled to advance an agenda?

We are told by one distraught police officer that the police were told to let the two groups of demonstrators have contact with each other and then stand down – a scenario designed for chaos and crafted outrage.

Although this is from an anonymous source, video footage of the event posted by the Virginia ACLU shows just that. The Virginia ACLU repeated on Twitter that the police were told to stand down.

Inside the synagogue, the rabbi and the congregation were helpless. I imagine that, like most synagogues, it prides itself on being a gun-free zone, or in the lexicon of gun advocates, an easy target.

If someone wants to kill you, hanging a sign isn't the deterrent you might think it is. If the neo-Nazis, KKK members and white supremacists entered the synagogue, they could have slaughtered all the worshippers before the first police car could arrive at the scene.

The congregants left through the back door, and were told to walk in groups instead of dispersing. In fact, a group only provides more targets in close proximity. The congregants have a lot to learn.

But what does this have to do with Odessa in 1905? Odessa was the scene of the bloodiest pogrom to take place in Russia, whose Jews sustained a long series of brutal massacres.

Although many Jews (estimates vary from 400 to 2,000)

CHARLOTTESVILLE | 12

Letters

Resurrecting forgotten anti-Semitic slurs

Do readers know the meaning of these disparaging words used in the 1940s to insult Jewish people: "Bagel Bender," "Jewish Lumberjack" or "Spaniard"?

Naturally, I consulted with some rabbis. Rabbi Les Gutterman is glad that these insults lost their meaning and sting over time. Rabbi Sarah Mack referred me to the American Jewish Archives; but a librarian there came up empty-handed.

Why? I am working on a book, compiling hundreds of love letters written in the World War II era between a Jewish soldier who proposes to marry his non-Jewish love. She looks forward to joining his Jewish world up north. Yet, those in her hometown near Richmond [Virginia] warn her to be wary and not trust him.

I had never heard the scornful names. For a "Jewish Lumberjack" there is a YouTube of Old Jews Telling Jokes. A Jew claimed to have been a lumberjack in the Sahara Forest, which is now the Sahara Desert. Perhaps the implication is that Jews exaggerate ridiculously.

I found nothing about the "Spaniard" slur.

"Bagel Bender" appears in a few places as derogatory slang for a Jew. UrbanDictionary.com says it is someone who may "cheap" out or cheat somebody. Definithing.com clarifies that to "jew" someone is to rip them off.

More background about the uses of "Bagel Bender," "Jewish Lumberjack" or "Spaniard" will help with this project. The letters were written by my 19-year-old mother to my father. She struggles to learn what it means to be Jewish, asking "Honey, what will it be like when I meet your folks? Will I have to eat gefilte fish?"

The slurs did not deter her. She converted to Judaism, married him and hosted many seders featuring her delicious gefilte fish.

Barbara B. Schoenfeld
Providence, RI

If you have information on these slurs or would like to share your experiences, please send a note to barbara.schoenfeld@gmail.com.

Touro Synagogue

The original Touro family and friends of the 1600s were shipowners, and bequeathed a princely sum for the upkeep and preservation of their local Sephardic synagogue, arguably the first synagogue building in the USA. Probably their most feared opponents were privateers or legal pirates, and now 500 years later piracy is about to come true, thanks to the blatant bullying and greed of the Shearith Israel Congregation of New York City.

The Newport congregation and the Touro Synagogue Foundation managed to raise over $15 million for the restoration of the synagogue and the construction of the Loeb-Touro Visitors Center dedicated to George Washington and freedom of religion. The costly restoration of the synagogue required a $3 million bank loan endorsed by the congregants and the president of Congregation Jeshuat Israel with no assistance from Shearith Israel, to my knowledge. With the recent decision to award ownership of the building to usurpers, this National Treasure becomes simply an empty stage prop worth only the value of its spoils, the *rimonim*.

The current building without a local *mikveh* (ritual bath), according to Jewish tradition, does not really qualify for Orthodox rituals. Will it become simply a museum devoted to Jewish avarice and greed or perhaps a two-month summer retreat for the weekend trysts of the black-hatted devout from New York avoiding the summer heat of lower Manhattan? It is obvious that the Appeals Court judge had little contact with reality, as the Shearith Israel Congregation of New York, to my knowledge has not attended services nor assisted in the physical or financial upkeep of the building for at least 100 years. What about the old rule that "possession is 9/10ths of the Law" ?

The Newport Jeshuat Israel Congregation missed the boat by not breaking the umbilical cord lease from years ago with NYC's Shearith Israel and becoming a stand-alone Reform or Conservative congregation leasing a historic relic.

Sadly, the current rendition of the Touro Synagogue has lost all religious significance for the Jewish community of Newport or of Rhode Island today, and now the Jeshuat Israel Congregation seems to have lost ownership of their building.

George Burman, AIA
Bristol, RI

Ongoing

Alliance Kosher Senior Café. Kosher lunch and program every weekday. 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.

Friday | August 25

Shabbat under the Stars Picnic with Guest Scholar Keith Stokes. 5:30-9 p.m. Julie Claire Gutterman Patio, Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Enjoy a family barbecue at 5:30 p.m. followed by a 7 p.m. Shabbat service under the stars. All are welcome. This year we will also be sharing this Shabbat with our friends from Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, Charleston, South Carolina. There will be activities for children and a special Oneg after the service. Temple members: $10. Non-member guests: free. Reserve by Aug. 20 and include how many would prefer a vegetarian dinner option. Rain or shine. Send check to Temple Beth-El or RSVP via phone at 401-331-6070 or on Chaverweb.

Kabbalat Shabbat Service. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Shabbat service followed by an Oneg. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Friday – Sunday
August 25-27

(401)j Shabbaton. Camp JORI, 1065 Wordens Pond Road, Wakefield. From Shabbat experiences to workshops to free time with friends, this is an opportunity to build connections, strengthen Jewish identity, learn, have fun, relax and more. Activities include bonfires, a ropes course, traditional and alternative prayer, meditation, canoeing and kayaking, musical Havdalah, Ultimate Frisbee, morning walks and more. Cost: $45 per person | Private accommodations are available for an additional fee | Refer someone new to Shabbaton, and receive $10 off (401) j's signature Vodka Latke Hanukkah Celebration. Cost includes lodging, food, drinks and all activities. No pets. Register at https://www.jewishallianceri.org/shabbaton-2017-registration/. Made possible by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and a grant from the RI Foundation. Information, Dayna Bailen at dbailen@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 108.

Saturday | August 26

Taste of Shabbat. 9-11 a.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. 9 a.m. Torah Discussion and 9:45 a.m. Shabbat service followed by a light Kiddush. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Minyan Breakfast and Torah Study. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Weekly breakfast and Torah study in the downstairs chapel. All are welcome. Information, Dottie at 401-942-8350.

Sunday | August 27

Annual Open House. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 N. Main St., Attleboro, Mass. Learn more about options for Jewish culture, life and education in the Attleboro area. Meet Rabbi Leora Abelson and Education Coordinator Annette Lawson. Current members will also be on hand. Refreshments will be served, and a themed craft will be available for children. The synagogue's band, Briskets and Gravy, will perform at 11 a.m. Congregation Agudas Achim attracts members from southeastern Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island and is affiliated with the Reconstructionist movement. Information, contact the synagogue at office@agudasma.org or 508-222-2243, or visit www.agudasma.org.

Open House. 3-6 p.m. Congregation Or Chadash, 139 Ocean Ave., Cranston. End-of-summer get-together includes a deli buffet Free. Information or to RSVP (by Aug. 21), 401-225-7194 or programming@orchadash-ri.org.

Tie Dye and Pizza Party. 5-7 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Everyone in grades 5-12 is welcome. Bring a white cotton t-shirt, pillowcase, towel, socks or anything that is 100 percent cotton and white for tie-dyeing. Dye, pizza and drinks provided. Free. Information or to RSVP (Aug. 24), Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Yachad End of Summer BBQ. 5-7 p.m. Young Israel of Sharon, 100 Ames St., Sharon, Mass. Food and fun at a family-friendly barbecue to cap off summer with New England Yachad. Cost: $10; $50 family max. Information, Ilana Kruger at krugeri@ou.org or 551-206-8798.

Back to Shul BBQ. 5-7 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Entire community welcomed at fall kick-off event. Cost: $10 age 10 and older; $5 ages 5-9; $30 family max. Information, Paul Stouber at pstouber@teprov.org or 401-331-1616.

Monday | August 28

Rhode Island Holocaust Survivor Ceremony. 4 p.m. Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial, Providence River Walk between the World War I and World War II Memorials, Providence. Honoring local Holocaust survivors with the addition of survivor names permanently engraved in stone. Information, Michelle Cicchitelli at mcicchitelli@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 178.

Canasta. 7 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Learn how to play. Open to members, non-members, men and women. Bring your friends. Free. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Wednesday | August 30

Mah Jongg. 7 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Open to members and non-members. Bring your friends and your 2017 Mah Jongg card. Free. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Thursday | August 31

David C. Isenberg Family Early Childhood Center Back-to-School Parent Night. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Orientation night for ECC families. Information, Jo-Anne Petrie at jpetrie@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 180.

Saturday | September 2

Minyan Breakfast and Torah Study. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Weekly breakfast and Torah study in the downstairs chapel. All are welcome. Information, Dottie at 401-942-8350.

Sunday | September 3

"A Night under the Stars" with the Reggie Centracchio Quintet. 6:30-8:30 p.m. The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. Bring your friends and family. Feel free to bring your own refreshments, lawn chairs and blankets. Free. Information, Susan Adler at 401-732-0037.

Wednesday | September 6

Joseph & Leba Zelniker Educators Conference: "Hands On and Minds On: Engaging with Experiential Education to Achieve Our Jewish Educational Goals" with Mark S. Young. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. This professional development workshop engages educators in various modes of learning and reflection, and allows participants to gain a basic understanding of the philosophy and pedagogical approaches of experiential education within a Jewish educational setting. Participants learn to apply strategies, tools and concepts of experiential education within their particular student-learning environment. Participants also learn with and strengthen the relationships of their network of colleagues, both familiar and new. Explore, reflect, achieve some flow and have some fun. The cost of this program is covered by the Zelniker Fund at the Jewish Federation Foundation. Light dinner at 5:30 p.m. Presentation at 6 p.m. RSVP by Sept. 1 to Lynne Bell at lbell@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 100. Information, Jana Brenman at jbrenman@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 181.

Friday | September 8

Open House. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Open house service to meet clergy and lay leaders. Oneg follows. Rabbi Jeff Goldwasser and Cantor Deborah Johnson will talk about the vibrant, inspiring and supportive congregation that brings traditions alive. Temple Sinai is a genuine community filled with meaningful prayer, authentic Jewish learning and connection to God that shares a loving environment for celebration and for life's momentous occasions. Information or to RSVP, Dottie at dottie@templesinairi.org or 401-942-8350.

Saturday | September 9

Minyan Breakfast and Torah Study. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Weekly breakfast and Torah study in the downstairs chapel. All are welcome. Information, Dottie at 401-942-8350.

Cake Wars. 8-10 p.m. Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Roll up your sleeves and get ready for this fun and competitive cake decorating event. Teens and tweens work in teams of up to four to create the best cake design to be scored by a panel of guest judges. Prizes will be awarded. Cost: $5 with two nonperishable Kosher food items or $8. Information or to RSVP, Seth Finkle at sfinkle@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 146.

Sunday | September 10

Congregational Barbecue. Noon-1:30. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Join us for a barbecue. Open to all. Free of charge. Information or RSVP (by Sept. 6), Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Thursday | September 14

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Blackberry Avocado Smoothie Bowl

Make-ahead breakfasts for busy school days

FAMILY FEATURES – When the school year rolls around, switching from pool to school means finding simpler ways to kick off the day with healthy and nutritious options.

Preparing feel-good breakfasts can be as easy as picking and putting together the right ingredients, if you know where to buy them. At grocery stores, parents can conveniently find choices they can feel good about feeding their families, including fresh produce and organic, non-GMO and gluten-free options.

After the shopping trip, try these make-ahead breakfast ideas to give busy mornings a boost:

- Homemade energy bars are an easy breakfast option that can keep you fueled until lunch. For simple bars, heat coconut oil and vanilla in a saucepan until combined then transfer to a large bowl and mix with cashew butter, oats, dried fruits and granola.

Press the mixture between two cookie sheets to flatten, refrigerate 2 hours and slice into bars.

- Portion out produce for daily breakfast smoothies. Seal each weekday's smoothie ingredients in separate plastic bags and simply toss the ingredients in a blender each morning. Enjoy your smoothie in a tumbler or try something new, such as this Blackberry Avocado Smoothie Bowl.
- Use your slow cooker to make oatmeal. Before heading to bed, simply add milk, vanilla and your favorite sweetener to rolled oats and cook on low 7-8 hours.

Include dried fruit to soak up moisture and provide a sweet, juicy addition. Or try these Morning Oasis Overnight Oats for a no-cook variation on traditional oatmeal for a quick, crunchy start to the day.

Make school mornings a breeze with more quick recipes at aldi.us.

Blackberry Avocado Smoothie Bowl

Recipe courtesy of Chef Audrey, ALDI Test Kitchen

Prep time: 10 minutes

Servings: 1

Ingredients

3/4 cup blackberries
1/4 cup blueberries
1/4 cup plain nonfat Greek yogurt
3/4 cup unsweetened original almond milk
1/2 avocado
1/2 frozen banana
1 teaspoon pure vanilla
1 teaspoon organic wildflower honey
2 teaspoons lime juice

Optional garnishes:

Flax seed
Chia seeds
Sliced almonds, toasted
Blackberries
Blueberries
Lime zest

Directions

Place all ingredients in blender and blend until smooth. Transfer to serving bowl and add garnishes as desired.

Morning Oasis Overnight Oats

Recipe courtesy of Chef Michelle, ALDI Test Kitchen

Prep time: 10 minutes (plus overnight to set)

Cook time: 10 minutes

Servings: 3

Ingredients

1 1/2 cups quick oats
1 teaspoon chia seeds
2 cups unsweetened vanilla almond milk
1/8 teaspoon iodized salt
3 tablespoons organic wildflower honey, divided
1/4 cup organic quinoa, toasted
1/4 cup whole almonds, toasted
1 mango, sliced
1/4 cup chopped coconut
.45 ounces dark chocolate 70 percent cocoa, shaved
.45 ounces dark chocolate 70 percent cocoa, melted

Directions

Heat oven to 400 degrees F.

In large Mason jar, combine oats, chia seeds, almond milk, salt and 2 tablespoons honey. Refrigerate overnight.

In medium bowl, combine quinoa, almonds and remaining honey. Spread onto parchment-lined baking sheet. Bake 10 minutes. Remove, cooling completely and crumbling. Store in re-sealable bag overnight.

The next day, stir oats and pour desired amount into serving bowl. Top with mango, coconut, shaved chocolate and candied quinoa. Drizzle with melted chocolate.



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From Poland to Jerusalem in time for Israel's 70th

BY JEWISH VOICE STAFF

March of the Living offers a two-week once-in-a-lifetime experience for 10th to 12th graders. Starting the journey in Poland, the teens will arrive in Jerusalem in time for Israel's 70th birthday celebration.

An annual educational program, March of the Living brings thousands of teens together to study the history of the Holocaust and to examine the roots of prejudice, intolerance and hate. Since the first March was held in 1988, more than 261,000 participants from 52 states and countries have followed the same 3-kilometer path from Auschwitz to Birkenau on Holocaust Remembrance (*Yom HaShoah*) as a tribute to all victims of the Holocaust.

Teens then fly to Israel where they have an opportunity to visit museums and see the important sights. The trip coincides with Israel's Memorial Day (*Yom HaZikaron*) and culminates with Israel's Independence Day (*Yom HaAtzmaut*) when all the delegations join for another march to the Old City in Jerusalem.

The goal of March of the Living is to help inspire teens to fight indifference, racism and injustice by walking in the footsteps of those who witnessed the Holocaust. The hope is that the program will help strengthen Jewish identity as well as connections to Israel.

Since 1990, dozens of Rhode Island teens have participated every other year. The upcoming trip runs from April 8-22, 2018.

"This trip changed my life," said Lexi Kutenplon. "It made me fall in love again with Judaism. It made me really proud of my culture and who I am as a person." She participated in the trip in 2014.

Interested students can learn more about the trip by contacting Jana Brenman, jbrenman@jewishallianceri.org.

FROM PAGE 9

CHARLOTTESVILLE

died in the Odessa pogrom of 1905, the Jews had created organized, armed militias and fought back, taking a toll on police and soldiers that were actively involved in the pogrom, along with the Okhrana, the czarist secret police.

Two Russian Jews who took special note of the Odessa pogrom were Ze'ev Jabotinsky and Joseph Trumpeldor. Jabotinsky, at the time, a leading Russian-Jewish intellectual. Trumpeldor was a decorated military hero who lost an arm in the Russo-Japanese War.

Influenced by the events in Odessa, the two set about to create Jewish militias, teaching the repelled pogromists that pitchforks, torches and knives were no match for trained and disciplined men with guns. Jabotinsky and Trumpeldor left their mark through the fact that the Russians learned killing Jews just wasn't what it used to be.

Surviving pogroms in Charlottesville isn't very different from surviving them in Odessa.

If Jews want to survive, they need to arm and train themselves. Their other option? Walking out the back door of the synagogue and praying white supremacists don't shoot them as they gather together in groups to make themselves easier targets. Or better yet, Jews can stay home where it is safe.

Those are the choices. Remember, the police never showed, and the average police response time in the nation is 11 minutes when they do arrive.

When a gun-toting hate group showed up outside a mosque in Texas, they were met by armed congregants who greatly outnumbered them. Nobody walked out the back door of the mosque that day.

The NRA was not formed to defend Southern blacks. But ex-marine Robert Williams and his gun club made it possible for blacks in Monroe County, N.C., to create a chapter of the NAACP. Williams and his gun club fought off the KKK, which previously harassed, injured and murdered blacks at will. His NAACP chapter went on to integrate the local library and swimming pool.

During the turmoil of the civil rights era in Louisiana, the Deacons for Defense, made up of veterans, armed themselves to protect young civil rights workers from the savagery of KKK violence. The Deacons also protected blacks who wanted to register to vote.

Unprotected by the Los Angeles Police during the Rodney King riots, Korean business owners organized and defended their businesses with guns.

Yes, it is America in 2017. But for Jews, it's beginning to look like Russia during the era of the pogroms. Jews need to learn from their own tragic history and from other ethnic groups that acted to defend themselves. Walking out the back door of a synagogue should never be the recommended option. Jews being told to walk in groups is the stuff of nightmares.

ABRAHAM H. MILLER is an emeritus professor of political science, University of Cincinnati, and a distinguished fellow with the Haym Salomon Center. Follow him on Twitter: @salomoncenter.

Looking for something to do? Teens have many options

BY MICHELLE CICCHITELLI

No need to be bored this fall. Whether you are a teen looking for something fun to do or the parent of a teen looking for an activity for your son or daughter, the Jewish Alliance of Greater RI offers multiple programs.

Teens can audition for the HaZamir choir. In partnership with Temple Emanu-El, the Providence chapter is one of 35 U.S. and Israeli chapters of the International Jewish High School Choir. Seventh- and eighth-graders are able to audition for the Providence chapter, too.

The choir is led by Cantor Brian J. Mayer with accompanist Judith Stillman and meets Sunday mornings from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (lunch is included), beginning Sept. 10. Through this year-long commitment, students sing music from various styles including Israeli rock, Jewish a cappella and Hebrew classics. HaZamir stands out as a one-of-a-kind, trans-denominational experience. Our local group performs throughout the year on a local and national stage.

New this year, the Alliance is a Teen Leadership and Philanthropy (TLP) program for students in grades 8 – 12. This program is an experiential learning opportunity that incorporates intensive leadership symposiums, group volunteer experiences, social programming and philanthropy skills in a fun eight-month adventure. Participants engage in monthly meetings and work toward raising money for a local nonprofit organization, attend an optional community service project and learn how to talk about a variety of topics regarding Israel. In addition, one of the goals is to serve as a link to other teen organizations around the state. Through this program, teens have the opportunity to take a leadership role in planning multiple statewide social activities.

Did you know the Alliance's Dwares JCC offers a stand-alone special teen membership? With this membership, teens have access to a variety of special events, classes, fitness activities and more. Teens are also able to utilize the teen lounge, a great after-school option. The teen lounge is a relaxing space to catch up on homework on one of the many computers, play ping-pong, video games, and more.

All these activities are designed to promote a community where teens forge social and Jewish connections and create opportunities for social action, creative arts, socialization and athletics to give teens a place to find their strength and form positive relationships.

To find out more about these programs, contact Seth Finkle, teen programming coordinator, at sfinkle@jewishallianceri.org or at 401-421-4111, ext. 146. To find out more about a teen membership, contact the Member Services Office at memberservices@jewishallianceri.org, or at 401-421-4111.

MICHELLE CICCHITELLI is vice president of programming at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

Holocaust survivor stories more relevant than ever

BY LEV POPLOW

Recently, Alice Eichenbaum, a Holocaust survivor, spoke to the Jubilee Sisters, a Christian women's group, at a private home in Wakefield, where she was warmly embraced by the women and men who came to hear her story. She has been sharing that story for the better part of the last 20 years.

Eichenbaum is part of the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center (SBHEC) Speaker's Bureau. In her words, it was "sheer luck that I happened to come to do it." She was attending a talk at the University of Rhode Island, given by one of SBHEC's first speakers, Leah Eliash. Recognizing that more survivors needed to come forward motivated Eichenbaum to join the Speakers Bureau.

The SBHEC mission is to teach the history of the Holocaust in order to promote human dignity and justice, and to serve as a memorial to its victims. One program that helps SBHEC accomplish this goal is the Survivor Visitation Program.

Through the Speakers Bureau, Holocaust survivors speak at schools, synagogues, churches and community groups. They open dialogue,



Alice Eichenbaum

encouraging participants to refrain from expressing prejudice, to notice it and to take constructive action.

Eichenbaum believes that "It's important that people should know what happened, especially young people. So years from now when you meet someone who says the Holocaust didn't happen you will be able to say that I met someone and heard it myself firsthand."

She finds speaking to people about the Holocaust to be very gratifying. Sometimes she'll be out somewhere in public and will be approached by someone who says, "I remember you. You spoke about the Holocaust at my school." As she says, "That is the real reward of sharing my, and my husband's, stories."

Perhaps Eichenbaum's main reasons for speaking are so that "no one should be prejudiced" and to increase tolerance between people. She especially loves speaking to students who come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. To them her message is loving and direct: "Don't give up! Like my husband and I, you can overcome circumstances and achieve great things."

In addition to speakers, SBHEC's Survivor Visitation Program is successful thanks to the volunteers who offer their time and assistance. Many survivors no longer drive and need rides to and from speaking engagements. SBHEC can always use more volunteer drivers.

If you can help and are interested in volunteering, contact Paula Olivieri, SBHEC's education director at paula@bornsteinholocaustcenter.org.

LEV POPLOW is a communications and development consultant. He can be reached at levpoplow@gmail.com.



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$943,000

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Helping your child transition back to school

BY KAREN WARGO

For many families the new school year arrives with emotions ranging from excitement to anxiety.

In my experience, three major stressors can affect the summer-to-school transition: sleep, preparation and communication. Here are some tips to manage them.

Sleep: No one copes well tired. A well-rested child best handles transitioning from summer frolic to structured school day. Simply getting up in the morning may be the toughest change. Because an established routine provides children with a sense of stability and safety, I suggest shifting from summer to school hours about two weeks before classes begin. Starting two weeks before the first day of school, have your children go to bed 15 minutes earlier each night. This way their minds and bodies will gradually get used to a new schedule, and you will avoid "morning shock" when school starts. Remember that routines help children feel comfortable, and creating a solid morning routine will make the first days of school go smoother.

Prepare: School worries are common. For children, the most common fears relate to not knowing what is about to happen and where things are located at school. If your child is anxious about the start of school, visit before classes start. This is a great way to alleviate nervousness. Visit the classroom and key places such as the bathroom, gym, playground and cafeteria. Knowing where everything is located makes children feel more confident. Also, most teachers are setting up their classrooms in the days before school starts. During this time, teachers are happy to visit with students. For example, at JCDSRI we welcome visits from our students before school officially begins. Contact your child's teacher and ask to visit the classroom to learn a bit about its layout and routines. And if your school hosts an open house or back-to-school night, be sure to attend with your child(ren).

Communicate: As a teacher (and parent), I know communication between teachers and parents is crucial. Meeting with or speaking with a teacher early on is an excellent way to calm fears. Teachers often welcome phone calls or e-mails. These are great opportunities to get to know each other before the year begins. Lots of schools offer home visits, which help teachers see children in their home settings. At JCDSRI, we arrange home visits in every grade, which is a great way to get to know a child in a more relaxed environment. When you chat with a teacher, share your child's interests, challenges and skills. And communicating with your child's teacher on a regular basis during the school year is an essential part of a successful school experience.

One final tip for parents: Employ strategies to help you relax. Children pick up the anxiety of stressed-out parents. Keeping your anxiety in check will help your child stay calm on the first day of school and throughout the school year.

KAREN WARGO is a first-grade teacher at Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island. She previously taught first grade for eight years at Paul Cuffee School.

Tips to ease the transition

BY JO-ANNE DEGIACOMO PETRIE

Heading back to school after a summer break can be difficult for parents and other caregivers, as well as children. Here are some suggestions to help transition from summer to a school schedule.

Routines: Start the back-to-school routine a couple of weeks before the first day of school. The routine might look like dinner at 6, bath time at 7, a story and then bed. Keeping to a regular schedule helps your child know what will happen next, alleviating stress and worry.

Bedtime/wake up: A consistent bedtime and regular morning wake-up time should be implemented. If your child is not up at the right time, wake him or her. Have your child eat a healthy breakfast every morning. (For suggestions, see the American Pediatrics Association's recommendations at http://bit.ly/2wtPhWH.) After breakfast, have him/her brush teeth, wash face and get dressed – just like he or she is heading off to school. This exercise will set the stage for your youngster to rehearse and learn the evening and school-morning routines.

Drop off: Upon entering the classroom, a teacher will greet you and your child. You may be given a written schedule of daily events and your child may get a picture schedule to track his or her school day. Many classrooms also have "sign-in boards," where children can move their picture from home to school. This practice is helpful for children to transition to being at school. After "signing in," have your child put his or her belongings in the cubby, then take a few minutes to review their daily schedule.

Your departure: Before leaving, inform your child who will pick him/her up and when. For example, "Dad will pick you up at recess time." Try not to linger – kiss your child goodbye, then leave. Remember that your child is building trust with everyone in their lives – leaving without saying goodbye is easier on the adult, but very difficult on the child.



Pick up: Whoever picks up your child after school should ask the child about the day. Hear what your child is telling you and help him/her to feel comfortable. Share in both the joyful experiences as well as those troublesome ones. Try not to "fix" every problem – children need to learn to think critically and build resiliency. Help your child brainstorm problem-solving techniques to deal with difficulties at school. Also, share your day as well.

Remember that morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups occur during public times, when it is difficult for your child's teacher to give you the attention you deserve; make an appointment to speak in private if you have something in-depth to discuss.

Review: While driving home from school, chat with your child about what will happen when you arrive home. For example: it will be time to hang up your backpack, wash your hands, and play, followed by cleaning up for dinner, a bath, a story, then bed. Preview what will happen the next morning. Think about using a picture schedule for home routines, which will give your child an opportunity to track what will happen next.

Other helpful tips

- Ask your local librarian to recommend books that tell stories about school, friends, missing caregivers, etc.
- Take pictures of your child's classroom and cubby. Print the pictures, then use them to illustrate a story that you and your child write about school.
- Decorate your child's cubby with photos of family and pets. If your child misses you or the pet during the day, a peek in the cubby can help.
- Talk about friends your child has met at school and arrange playdates.
- Arrive at school a few minutes early to meet other families and classmates your child talks about.

JO-ANNE DeGIACOMO PETRIE (jpetrie@jewishallianceri.org) is director of early childhood education at the David C. Isenberg Family Early Childhood Center at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

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PHOTOS | JCDSRI

Students at Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island enjoy fun activities at the opening day party.

Changes in store at the Jewish Community Day School of RI

While many of us are still enjoying lazy days at the beach, administrators and staff at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island are busy cleaning, waxing floors, painting walls and preparing the school for opening day on Sep. 5.

The JCDSRI faculty has been working hard this summer too, participating in professional development workshops and trainings, as well as completing a schoolwide summer reading assignment on positive classroom management. Indeed, many changes and improvements are in store for the community as JCDSRI (formally Alperin Schechter Day School) begins its 39th year.

The biggest change by far is welcoming Andrea Katzman as the new Head of School. Last year, Katzman was the principal, and prior to that she was lead teacher in PreK and teacher mentor. With her deep knowledge of progressive pedagogy, expertise in creating and executing social-emotional curricula as well as nurturing partnerships across communities, she has been excitedly received by staff and parents.

JCDSRI welcomes a new Judaics teacher to its faculty, Michelle Raskin. With a master's in teaching from the Pardes Educators Program with Hebrew College and a BA from University of California, Berkeley, Michelle brings expansive Jewish knowledge and a creative approach to teaching to her fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms. She has studied at various seminaries in Jerusalem and has extensive curriculum-writing experience. She is particularly excited about community building, social-emotional learning and empowering all of her young learners.

Some JCDSRI classrooms will look different to students this fall. The school's Design Lab is in a new space. Katzman has been extensively researching design spaces with the help of JCDSRI Board member and Brown university professor of design, Ian Gonsher. JCDSRI's new Design Lab is inspired by the Brown Design Workshop, the Brown Humanity Centered Robotics Lab and the Rhode Island School of Design Nature Lab. Katzman explains that "the reconfiguring of our Design Lab will ensure that it remains accessible and inspiring to young children while reflecting the best practices of professionals."

The JCDSRI music room also has a new home. The space is bigger and more conducive to making and performing music. The school's beloved music program will continue to be led by Mike Murdock, not only an outstanding music educator but a professional musician and graduate of the Berklee College of Music. The new music space will easily hold the organs, guitars, ukuleles, percussion and other instruments that Murdock integrates into the music program.

JCDSRI is unveiling a new learning support space. An entire classroom has been transformed into a new Learning Center. Learning support at JCDSRI is directed by Kim Kimball, a teacher and literacy specialist with over 30 years' experience. Kimball has an MA in Literacy Education as well as an MS in Special Education and a BA in Elementary Education and Psychology. Under Kimball's direction, the JCDSRI Learning Center will not only further individualize student learning, but will also allow faculty to focus on year-round professional development, including work on differentiated instruction, blended learning and executive functioning skills. The goal of this approach to learning support is to empower the entire faculty by building teachers' capacities to reach all learners in their classrooms.

With just a few weeks to go before opening day, JCDSRI teachers are beginning to conduct their annual home visits. Every student receives a visit from his or her teacher before school starts. "Home visits, long a part of JCDSRI practice, help students reduce back-to-school anxiety, give teachers a head start on establishing a strong parent-school relationship and help our students arrive ready for success from day one," explains Jill Davis, director of General Studies.

Parents are busy as well – planning to kick off the new school year with an opening day celebration. The Parent Association's annual Block Party is a favorite for students, parents and teachers alike. The street is closed off, and children are dismissed on the first day of school to ice cream, a bounce house and a dunk tank while parents get to catch up after the summer break. The mood is always happy and festive, reflecting the joy of reuniting with old friends and welcoming new ones to the school community.

Submitted by the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island

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Students return to PHDS ready to learn

Providence Hebrew Day School (PHDS) is looking forward to welcoming our students back to school in the coming week. We are very fortunate that our students are returning from vacation ready and excited for the upcoming school year. We consider ourselves fortunate as well because we know that their studies have not been forgotten. Many of our students attended Torah day camps (on our site), other day camps or sleepaway camps. In addition, the school's summer homework, which includes both Hebrew and English reading, helps keep students' learning fresh. Finally, some of our students attended a summer reading program run by Boston University, which PHDS hosted.

Our teachers, too, have taken advantage of the summer break by working to enhance the students' classroom experiences for the coming year. We are pleased to welcome several new faculty members, all of whom we are confident will help our students continue to thrive in so many ways.

We are particularly excited about piloting the new *Eretz Chemdah* program for sixth graders. This program includes remote presentations from the Land of Israel and will introduce the students to the many *mitzvot* that are special to the Holy Land through lecture, video and activities. Janice Rosenfield, one of the school's Hebrew language specialists, will facilitate this unique program.

We are also beginning construction on a new lobby. The Fradin Family outer lobby will give the school a new, renovated look and will offer a handicapped accessible entryway and security vestibule to PHDS.

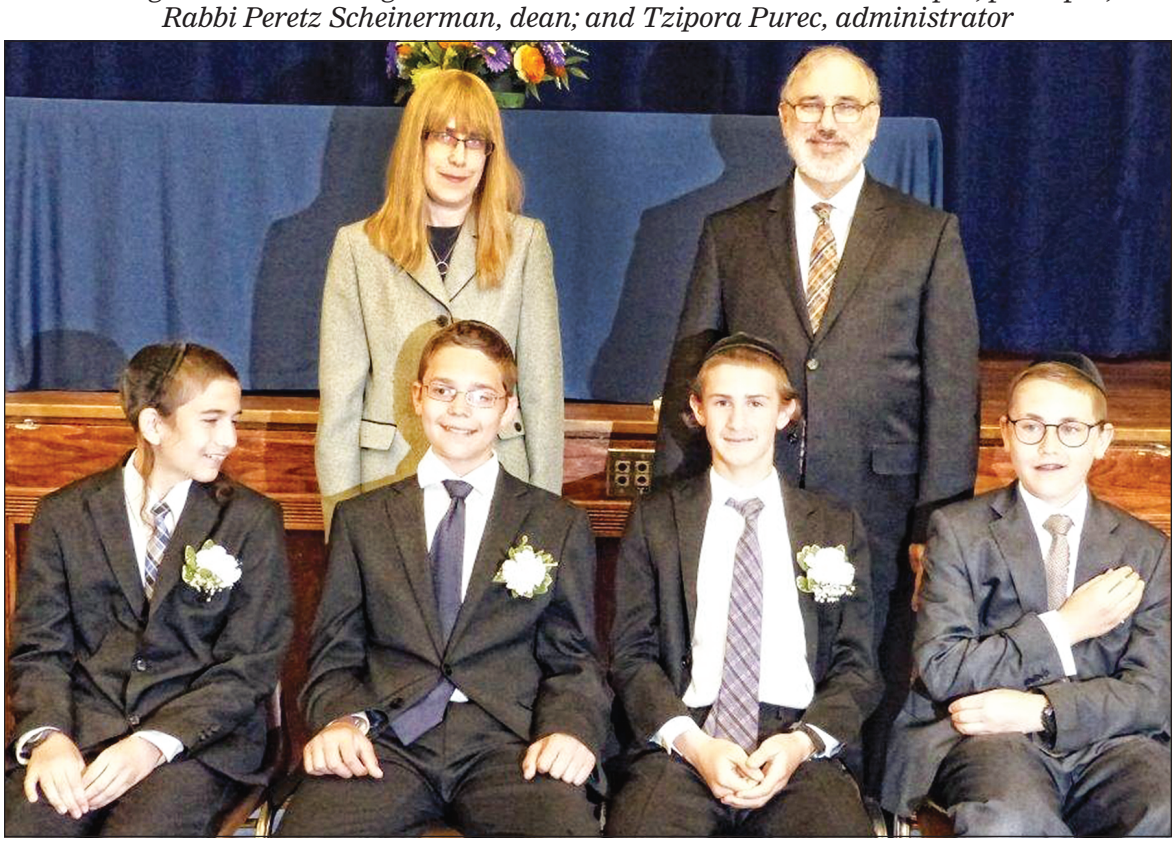
We are proud of the high academic standards set at PHDS and equally as proud of the fact our school is known to stress *middot tovot* – excellent character. Our alumni and graduates go on to higher learning, and many of our 2017 NEAT graduates will be traveling to Israel to continue their studies in various seminaries.

Finally, we are in the process of procuring gifts for our capital campaign. We are working toward renovating the school's aging facility to meet state codes, as well as to offer other educational enhancements. To join our donors or to discuss dedication opportunities, please contact one of our capital campaign fundraising chair people: Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, dean, can be reached at 401-331-5327, ext. 21. Frank Halper can be reached at 401-331-6851.

Submitted by the Providence Hebrew Day School



NEAT graduates at their graduation on June 14 with Rabbi Aaron Lapin, principal; Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, dean; and Tzipora Purec, administrator



PHDS graduates, 2017.

PHOTOS | PHDS

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Jewish Alliance OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Temple Emanu-El starts school year with breakfast

Temple Emanu-El's Religious School welcomes Ronni Saltzman Guttin as the new director of education. Guttin looks forward to greeting all students and their families at a celebratory breakfast when the new school year opens on Sept. 10 at 9 a.m. Students and families will meet the teachers and see their new classrooms that morning.

Guttin says she is very excited to lead the school into the next year and looks forward to working with students and families. Although this is a new position for Guttin, she has been a teacher in the Temple Emanu-El Religious School for the past three years. She also taught in the school many years ago. Many students and families know Guttin from her work as a camp director at Camp JORI and, more recently, at Camp Avoda. Guttin has worked in programming for Jewish Elder-care of RI.

Plans this year in the religious school call for an expanded *Madrichim* program, which gives teens an opportunity to work in classrooms assisting teachers, while exploring a variety of topics to enhance their own Jewish education. Students in several grades will continue to use the highly acclaimed Shalom Learning Program for studying Hebrew.

Hillary Guttin will continue to expand the Jewish music program, and the school looks forward to expanding its relationships with several social service agencies. The school's outstanding faculty are ready and eager to help students thrive in their Jewish studies as they grow in their understanding and appreciation of our rich tradition.

Temple Emanu-El welcomes members and non-members to its school. Please contact Ronni Saltzman Guttin at ronni@teprov.org or via telephone at 401-331-1616 for further information.

Submitted by Temple Emanu-El

A 'culture of yes' drives Temple Beth-El's religious school

BY FRAN OSTENDORF

In the last year, the Rabbi Leslie Yale Gutterman Religious School at Temple Beth-El, in Providence, has been reimagined for the modern family.

The aim was an innovative model that featured small-group Hebrew classes and a Sunday program for pre-K to grade 10. At the time, the religious school leadership team of Rabbi Sarah Mack, Joie Magnone and Rachel Mersky Woda told The Voice that they wanted a communal, accessible, joyful community. And they wanted to be sensitive to the needs of today's busy families.

The new curriculum, written by Mack, Magnone and Mersky Woda, with input from an advisory group of congregants, parents and educators, has been a huge success, according to leadership and parents.

"We feel strongly that people should feel good about being here," said Mersky Woda. Parents tell her, she said, that they "no longer have to fight with [their] child to be here."

The key is to be flexible and work around the needs of the family and the child, not the other way around, she said. That means activities like all-school Shabbat dinners are included in tuition and students come as they are, at the time they can – and if they are in shin guards, that's ok.

Enrollment is up. And it's clear that the team of Mersky Woda and Mangione is working well: In a recent interview, they completed each other's sentences as they talked about what's in store for the coming year.

Last year, Magnone said they hoped that the children would leave with a love of Judaism. This summer, she said she visited Camp JORI, in Wakefield, where many area children spend a few weeks.

"A student came running up to me," she said. "He told me, 'I can't wait for Hebrew School to begin again!' "

Magnone and Mersky Woda say they are also excited about the upcoming school year, when the emphasis will be on teaching many different aspects of Judaism – a breadth of knowledge. There will also be more of an emphasis on learning at each age-appropriate level – so a study of a holiday, for example, won't be the same for the whole school. And there will be a continued emphasis on project-based learning.

"We are really excited about the process of learning," says Magnone.

Magnone and Mersky Woda say this progressive approach to education is "the only way we'll see the next generation of Jews know what it means to be Jewish."

For more on the Leslie Yale Gutterman Religious School, read "Creating a Culture of Yes," by Mack, Magnone and Mersky Woda, at http://ejewishphilanthropy.com/creating-a-culture-of-yes.



Students gather in the main sanctuary.

FRAN OSTENDORF (fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org) is the editor of The Jewish Voice.

The Winds of Change at Temple Habonim

BY DAVID PEROLMAN

To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often. – Winston Churchill

Families and congregants often ask me "so what do you do in the summer?" They suggest long beach-filled days and relaxing nights. While I have been getting some rest and relaxation, the Education Team at Temple Habonim spent the summer learning, growing and strategizing how we could accommodate the needs of our families while keeping the strength of our foundation intact.

Led by a select group of lay leaders, we carefully assembled a list of questions to better know the needs and current climate of the school. The results showed that while more than 80 percent of our families were happy with the school overall, there were specific ways in which to help our families, while continuing our high level of learning and engagement in the temple.

Based on the results from the survey, we are piloting a system that allows for more flexibility in a family's scheduling. There will be increased options for Hebrew School sessions with the hope that our families will be able to find multiple entry points to meet their spiritual and educational needs.

We now will be grouping students by Hebrew level, allowing for families to choose the session that best fits their needs (either Session I: Sunday 12:15-1:30 p.m.; Session II: Wednesday 3:40-4:55 p.m., or Session III: Wednesday 5-6:15 p.m.).

We will be adding another hour to the Kindergarten day, which will now be dismissing with the rest of the school at noon. This will allow increased bonding and learning time for the students; it will also respond to the parents' desires to have kindergartners end their day at the same time as their older children.

We have adopted a standardized curriculum in both Sunday Religious School and Hebrew School as well. It is our hope that all families will understand what happens in each grade so as to strengthen the connection between home life and temple life. For more information about our new program, please come to the Shape our School presentation on Sunday, Sept. 17 at 11 a.m.

We have reassessed the goals for B'nai Mitzvah and beyond, piloting a *Chai* School program that focuses on *Mussar* from the adolescent viewpoint. We will incorporate learning about Jewish lifecycle events and explore why Judaism seems to be more relevant to some based on their life circumstances. For the first time in several years, this program will allow 11th- and 12th-grade students to engage in study sessions and add their maturing voices to the mix.

We look forward to exploring our 5778 school theme of *bal tashchit* (do not destroy) and curriculum themes of Torah, *Avodah* (showing devotion) and *G'milut Chasadim* (deeds of loving-kindness) with you on opening day, Sept. 17 at 9:30 a.m.

DAVID PEROLMAN is education director and songleader at Temple Habonim in Barrington.

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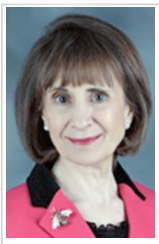
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Going back to school – bringing new growth to the new year



PATRICIA RASKIN

It's the time of year when we transition from summer to fall, from this year to the new year and from our children's summer activities to the school year.

I found an interesting quote on the Biblical meaning of school and education in the article "Education in Biblical Times," at biblical-training.org.

The article states: "Thus the primary aim of all the educational activity was religious (Gen 18:19). The aim was to train the young to know and serve the Lord (Deut 6:7; Prov 1:7) so that throughout their life they would not depart from this way (Prov 22:6). Thus religious education centered its attention on the Torah and aimed at educating the Jews for living.

"It was not merely an education to make a living but was concerned with persons and character forming. Knowing was not divorced from being and doing, and good character was seen to result from a right relationship with God through the study of the Torah.

"The primacy of the Torah embraced the whole of life from the cradle to the grave. One was never too old or too young to learn. It embraced every aspect of life also. From the time of Ezra onward, the life of the Jews was Torah-centric. They became known as 'the people of the Book'."

Here are some tips to reinforce lifelong learning as our children and grandchildren head back to school:

• Talk about school as a place to grow, learn, be with friends.

• Get something for your children that is new for the new school year.

• Associate the new school year with the new year, as Rosh Hashanah is just around the corner.

• Ask your children to talk about what they would like to learn in school this year.

• Discuss the value of education with your children, how it's not only a tool to help them in their work life but also for greater understanding of different points of view and learning new ways to think.

Good character, integrity and strong Jewish values are all part of our children's learning process, and also part of lifelong learning. Let's consider school as part of the continuum of our children's growth and learning, not just a place to learn facts and figures for a few hours every day. Our ancestors had it right: Education is not just about making a living, but is part of a person's character and values.

PATRICIA RASKIN, president of Raskin Resources Productions Inc., is an award-winning radio producer and a Rhode Island business owner. She is the host of "The Patricia Raskin" show, a radio and podcast coach, and a board member of Temple Emanu-el.






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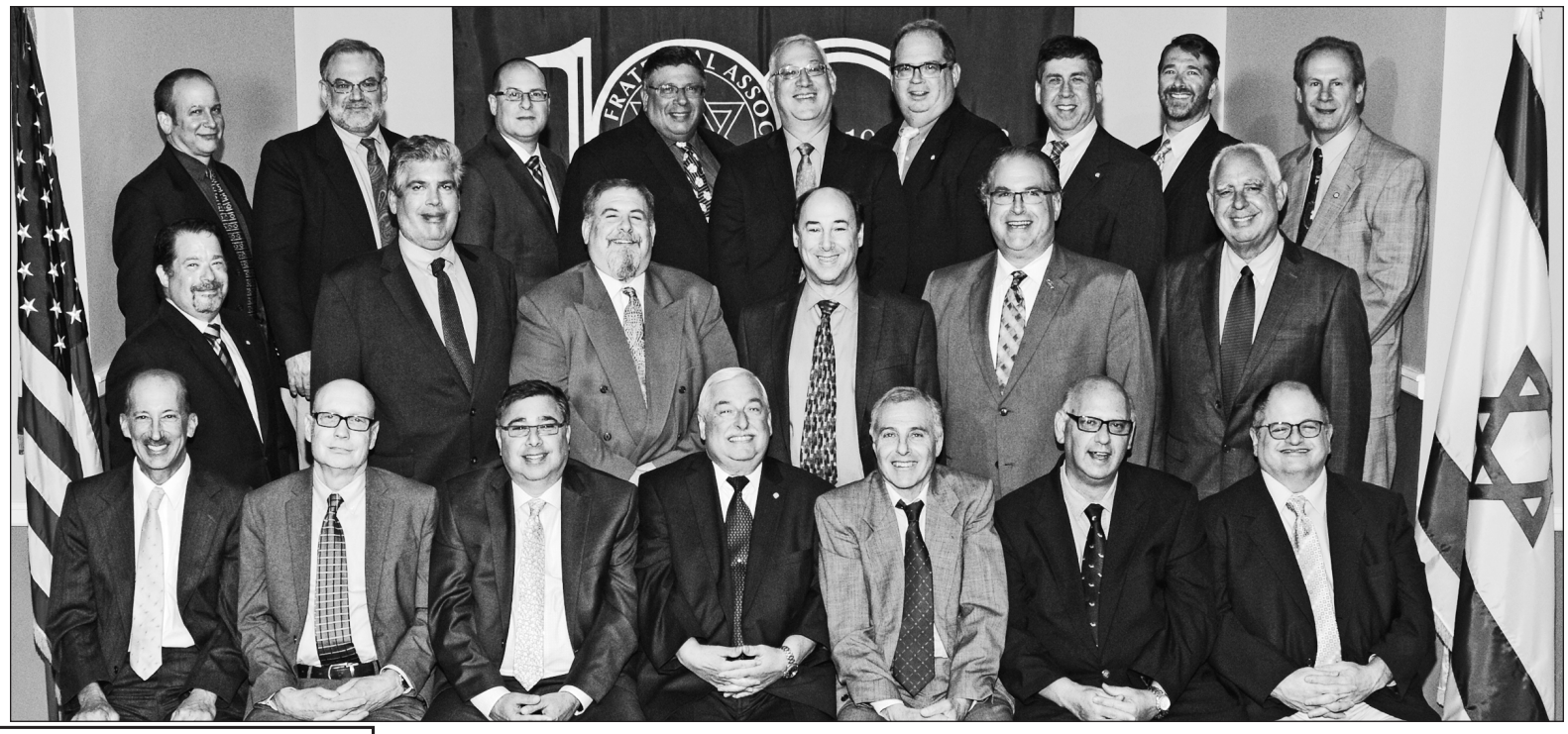
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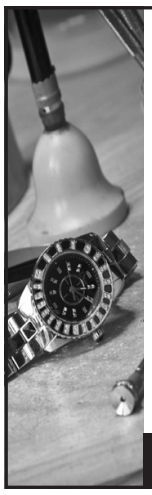
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Touro Fraternal Association Board Of Directors – First Row: Peter Silverman, treasurer, Friendship Lodge; David Mossberg, treasurer, Harmony Lodge; Richard Levenson, president, Harmony Lodge; Michael Smith, director; Steven Waldman, director/Association treasurer; Stuart Solup, secretary, Harmony Lodge; Barry Schiff, director/Association chaplain.

Second Row: Andrew Liss, director; Steven Hopfenberg, vice president, Harmony Lodge; Alan Lury, vice chairman, Board of Directors; Jed Brandes, chairman, Board of Directors; Robert Miller, chairman emeritus, Board of Directors; Andrew Lamchick, director.

Third Row: David Altman, secretary, Friendship Lodge; Ried Redlich, director/faithful guide; Barry Ackerman, Stevan Labush, directors; Jeffrey Stoloff, vice president, Friendship Lodge; Jeffrey Davis, Bruce Weisman, Michael Levin, Norman Dinerman, directors.

Not Shown: Arthur Poulten, chairman emeritus, Board of Directors; Andrew Gilstein, Nathan Lury, Steven White, directors; Max Guarino, president, Friendship Lodge; Mitchell Cohen, Association inside guard; David Weisman, inside guard, Harmony Lodge; Jeffrey Harpel, inside guard, Friendship Lodge; Bruce Wasser, Association secretary.

Touro Fraternal Association holds annual installation dinner

CRANSTON – It could be said that nothing brings Touro brothers together like a good meal, and in keeping with this time-honored tradition, Touro Fraternal Association held its annual Installation Dinner on May 17. Touro brothers were treated to a catered brisket dinner at Touro's headquarters followed by the installation of lodge officers and Association board directors.

Installing Officer Barry Ackerman and Master of Ceremonies Barry Schiff conducted the evening's festivities. Jeffrey Davis, Andrew Gilstein, Michael Levin, Andrew Liss, Alan Lury and Michael Smith took the oath of office, each sworn in for a three-year term on the board of directors.

Schiff spoke candidly about each of these men, many of whom shared the basic common goal to help Touro grow and prosper beyond its centennial year. This collective vision of growth and prosperity was evident as Schiff highlighted the many unique connections each brother held to Touro. Oftentimes, these connections were the result of years of experience that, when combined, accounts for decades of Touro leadership and will help to ensure that the future of Touro is in good hands.

The leadership of Harmony and Friendship Lodges then were sworn in. The officers of Harmony Lodge are President Richard Levenson, Vice President Steven Hopfenberg, Treasurer David Mossberg, and Secretary Stuart Solup. The officers of Friendship Lodge are President Max Guarino, Vice President Jeffery Stoloff, Treasurer Peter Silverman, and Secretary David Altman.

Levenson, in his remarks following his swearing in, thanked his predecessor and reflected on his past 15 years as part of Touro.

"Like silk fabric woven into a fine suit, Touro has become a part of my life," said Levenson. "It is a fraternity like no other, a unique and rewarding experience of Jewish brotherhood."

Guarino, who was sworn in for a second term as president, reflected on the hard work, the significance of the upcoming centennial year celebration, and the importance of continuing to build upon the successes of the previous year.

At the Association's organizational board meeting, held June 14th, Jed Brandes was elected to a fifth term as chairman of the board. Alan Lury will serve a fifth term as vice chairman. Steven Waldman continues as Association treasurer. In addition, Bruce Wasser was elected Association secretary.

For more information about Touro Fraternal Association go to tourofraternal.org, e-mail info@tourofraternal.org or call 401-785-0066.

Mega challah bake planned for West Bay

The Chabad Jewish Women of West Bay present a Mega Challah Bake on Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m. Interested women from the community are invited to learn how to make, knead and shape the world's most delicious bread.

You will unite with many local women to discover the timeless mitzvah of making challah while discovering the technique and mystique of this tradition.

Enjoy a pre-Rosh Hashanah evening of inspiration including hors d'oeuvres and desserts and pray with many voices and one heart for our personal requests and our brethren in Israel.

Open to women of all ages and girls 10 and older. Gluten free and vegan options are available. Suggested donation is $20.

RSVP to: 401-884-7888 or MrsLaufer@gmail.com.



Jacob Eaton



Jed Brandes



Touro Fraternal Association Board of Directors 1934

FROM PAGE 1

TOURO

community groups have downsized or disappeared.

About 20 years ago, Brandes and his young family attended a block party outside the Jewish Community Center, in Providence, where he saw a table manned by Arthur Poulten, Touro Fraternal's former longtime president. "He gave us the *spiel*," said Brandes, chuckling.

Brandes said he was an "absentee member" at first; his real involvement began when he was asked to be treasurer, and he started to meet people.

"I tell people who join to get involved," he says. "I'm unlike many of our brothers. I'm from New York, and I have no family here. If a son of New York can make a go of it, then anybody can."

Membership comes with perks, including sick benefits, mortuary benefits and gravesites in a dedicated area of Lincoln Park Cemetery, in Warwick. There are student scholarships for family members as well.

The calendar of activities includes picnics, breakfasts and social activities for members and their families, as well as couples.

"We do a really good job of what we do, whether it's philanthropic or social activities," Brandes said.

Brandes became chairman in 2013, after Bob Miller stepped down. Miller served from 2001 to 2013. Miller succeeded Arthur Poulten, who served from 1989 to 2001.

Leaders serve for the long term. Each of these men served on committees and did many other jobs within the organization before becoming chairman. And they watched as the organization grew in size and scope.

Much of Brandes' current term has centered on helping to plan the group's centennial year, which begins with a gala weekend Sept. 16-17.

"I did this because I want to give back to the Association," said Brandes, who was recently reelected to a fifth one-year term. "As long as I feel that way, I'm willing to do the work."

"If I had a wish, I would tell Touro's story in a more direct way in order to break down barriers and let people see what Touro is all about," he said. His hope is that if people see the real Touro, they will join – and that includes younger Jews in the community.

Touro was founded by Jacob Eaton, the first Jewish member of the Rhode Island General Assembly. Today's Association was split into two lodges – Harmony and Friendship – in 1990.

The organization started with a meeting hall at 128 North Main St. in Providence. After many moves, they now own a building at 45 Rolfe St. in Cranston. They moved there in 1989.

FRAN OSTENDORF (fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org) is the editor of The Jewish Voice.

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A Jewish Voice reader says ...

I learn about educational Jewish programs, book reviews and information about local organizations by reading the Jewish Voice.

Touro through the years

April 17, 1917: An act to incorporate the Touro Fraternal Association is passed by the Rhode Island General Assembly.

March 10, 1918: Touro Fraternal organized by Jacob A. Eaton at a Sunday meeting. Philip V. Marcus was chosen the first president.

March 11, 1918: First meeting of the board of directors.

June 9, 1918: First social event held at "Lincoln Reservation," now known as Lincoln Woods, for members and family.

Dec. 14, 1927: 10th anniversary banquet held.

March 18, 1931: Adopted a constitutional amendment to allow associate membership over 45 years of age.

Feb. 11, 1940: Board of Directors votes to have a newsletter published to be called "Tour-O-Gram."

March 24, 1943: 25th Anniversary dinner at Weinstein's Restaurant. This also was the 360th regular meeting.

May 6, 1946: Touro files claim for income tax exemption. On July 7, 1946, the U.S. Treasury Dept. sent a letter notifying Touro it is revoking its decision of August 19, 1935, to exempt Touro from federal income tax, saying the organization had to pay taxes. This was finally settled for good 44 years later in favor of Touro on March 28, 1990.

Nov. 16, 1958: 40th anniversary dinner held at Narragansett Hotel Ballroom. Price $15 per couple for Touro members only.

Oct. 28, 1967: 50th anniversary bash at the Colony Motor Hotel.

July 14, 1971: Board of directors approves amendments to constitution to change minimum age for membership down to 18 and regular meetings now will be once a month except in July and August. Previously, Touro members met twice a month.

Sept. 10, 1989: Special Sunday meeting is held to dedicate our new home on Rolfe Street, Cranston.

April 2, 1990: Board of Directors hold special meeting to set up lodges. Harmony will be 029 zip code except 20; Friendship will be 028 and 02920 and out of state zip codes.

Sept. 12, 1992: Diamond Jubilee 75th anniversary dinner is held at Holiday Inn at the Crossings. A total of 278 persons attended.

Oct. 15, 1994: Touro agrees to fund a $25,000 endowment for books, videos and other supplies for the library at Hasbro Children's Hospital.

Feb. 14, 1996: Board of directors votes to annually allocate $3,000 to underwrite the cost of a high school student to participate in the March of Living, a two-week educational experience in Israel and Poland. The first recipient is Tali Minkin of Providence.

Nov. 2, 1999: Touro donates its first three AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillator) to fire departments in Cranston, Warwick and Providence.

July 17, 2000: First full Touro Golf Tournament. After two rainouts previous year, tournament launches with more than 100 golfers at Kirkbrae Country Club and raises almost $5,000 to Rhode Island Breast Cancer Coalition.

March 18, 2001: Constitution and by-law amendments approved to increase the age limit for regular members from 45 to 52. Age limit hike was approved because board felt people are staying healthier and living longer.

Feb. 1, 2003: Touro launches its website: www.tourofraternal.org.

May 19, 2004: New badge board for members is put into use at a meeting for the first time.

Sept. 21, 2005: Nate Lury, the House Committee chairman for decades, is celebrated at a "Man of the House" Roast.

Feb. 13, 2008: Community Involvement Committee begins giving AEDs to all local synagogues and temples, bringing the total given locally thus far to 33.

May 21, 2008: Members dedicate offices on second floor of our building as "The Gerald D. Hodosh Memorial Administrative Office" in honor of Gerry's 43 years of dedicated service as association treasurer.

May 20, 2009: Touro forms golf league and the first day of play is held at Laurel Lane Country Club.

Sept. 16, 2017: Touro celebrates its 100th year with a Centennial Gala at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick.

TIMELINE COURTESY TOURO FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION

REMEMBER THE PAST

From the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

A postcard found, a journey remembered

BY GERALDINE S. FOSTER



I love flea markets. Browsing among the stalls, with their eclectic mix of vintage and not-so-vintage goods, is a pleasure to me, especially if the browsing produces a treasure.

These days, finding sites that meet my definition of a real flea market has become difficult. Too many are gentrified. The offerings are polished and shined until they sparkle, then artfully arranged.

Nowadays, I tend to seek more rural flea markets, where common and not-so-common folks go for bargains. There among the tools and war memorabilia, the genuine faux jewelry and mismatched china, I find my nuggets.

Neither Art Deco nor Depression glass arouses my collector instincts as it once did. Rather, it has become my mission (and my granddaughter's) to rescue bits of Judaica from the flea markets' flotsam. These items, like souvenirs of a trip to Israel or an old Kiddush cup, have little importance or value in the scheme of things, but they must have been important to someone at some point. Now they are tossed into a pile of castoffs.

Recently, I rescued a rather wobbly brass *hanukkiah* from a jumble of used tools and implements. What particularly attracted my attention was the colorful drippings of Hanukkah candles, still there on the base. The seller was very happy to accept $2 for it. He tightened it up as well, which made it as good as when new, which was not too long ago. Anyone need a brass *hanukkiah* made in India?

At another table, my daughter found three postcards, orphans set aside from the rest of an orderly pack in a box of cards from everywhere. Their price was reduced to a fraction of the original cost. One showed a handsome *kibbutznik* harvesting cotton on Kfar Blum in Israel. A second offered a romantic picture of a shepherd tending his flock, probably from the late 1930s. The third was the oldest – a rotogravure photo of Jerusalem taken in 1927. That postcard and its photographer are grist for this column.

I have no idea who wrote the message on the postcard, but the content and the photo brought to mind Rhode Islanders, some of whom my parents knew, who visited in the days before there was an Israel. They spoke of their experiences, but whatever printed materials they had – letters, journals, photos, etc. – are not found in the archives of the R.I. Jewish Historical Association.

An exception is the diary of Betty (Mrs. Isaac) Woolf, who visited Palestine in 1938. The diary, a treasured bit of our history, now resides in the archives, and excerpts were published in RIJHA's Notes in 1999.

One year after the death of her husband, Betty Bassing Woolf, at age 64, undertook the difficult journey by boat from Boston to Haifa. She wanted to visit her sister and also see for herself the work of the many agencies in Palestine she helped support. The plan of her friends, Doctors Clara and Joseph Smith, to visit Palestine at that time may have been a contributing factor in her decision.

Woolf and the Smiths boarded the *Conte de Savoia* on April 1. The ocean was rough for part of the way, she wrote, but the ride was smooth. After 15 days, and a stop in Naples, the three friends arrived at the port of Haifa in time for Passover. Woolf's sister was there to welcome her. The Smiths followed their own itinerary.

After Passover, Woolf went to Jerusalem. Perhaps she viewed the walled city from the same vantage point as the postcard photographer. Perhaps she bought similar postcards to send to family and friends back home. One can only speculate.

Her travel agenda included a trip to Jericho and the Dead Sea, before spending time in Jerusalem. Upon seeing the "Mighty River Jordan" for the first time, Woolf wrote, "If this river looked like that at the time the Jews crossed it to enter the Promised Land for the first time there is not much credit to them because it is very narrow."

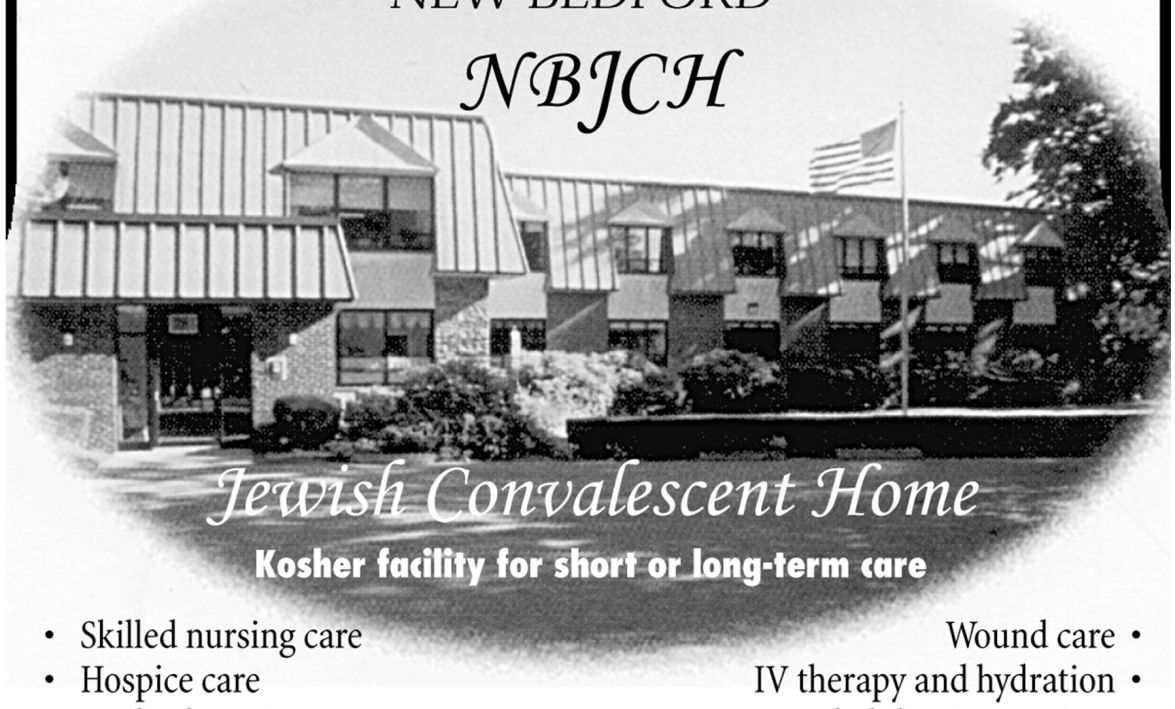
In Jerusalem, in addition to sightseeing, Woolf visited Hadassah Hospital, WIZO social agencies, and the offices of the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Fund, where she saw the name of her husband inscribed in the JNF Golden Book.

At the Wailing Wall, she said a few chapters of psalms, had memorial prayers said for family and friends, and made donations. The situation of the residents of the Old City filled her with pity.

On July 23, after traveling the length and breadth of Palestine, Woolf reunited with the Smiths for the trip home. Sadly, on their last day in Palestine, fighting broke out in Haifa. Her sister had to say goodbye in the street, as the port was closed to all but those boarding ships.

When she boarded the boat, Woolf wrote, "I felt relieved to be under the protection of the American Flag."

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

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Cranston seniors plan Sept. meeting

Cranston Senior Guild's next meeting will take place Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 1 p.m. at the Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. After a short business meeting, the versatile Mike Coletta will entertain the group with music and songs. There will be refreshments and a raffle. All men and women age 55 years plus are welcome to join Cranston Senior Guild. Cranston residency is not required. For more information, contact Lois Cohen at 401-944-2761.

Elliot Sheldon Cohen, 82

NORTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. – Elliot Sheldon Cohen, 82, of North Kingstown, passed away peacefully in his sleep early Aug. 11 in hospice. He is survived by his loving wife of 36 years, Linda McGovern Cohen of North Kingstown, his two daughters Candice L. Maynard of Lincoln and Andrea E. Hamson of Topsfield, Massachusetts, their husbands Christopher Maynard and Dale Hamson, his son Jeremy G. Cohen of Needham, Massachusetts and his wife Elina Litvak Cohen, his brother Robert Cohen of Arizona and his wife Dorothy Cohen, and his five grandchildren Jared and Justin Maynard, Shea and Ashley Hamson, and Francesca Marilyn Cohen.



After graduating from Classical High School, Class of 1953, he earned a B.A. from Brandeis University and a J.D. from Boston University's School of Law. He was fond of reminding people that "all three were lousy when I was there."

Over four decades, he built a successful legal practice based primarily in the real estate sector. He'll be remembered fondly by courthouse personnel across the state for his profound knowledge of the law, the speed with which he thought on his feet and his proclivity for tipping bailiffs, clerks and parking attendants at the holidays. He'll be remembered fondly by his clients and business partners for his honesty and his integrity, neither of which wavered in an era of temptation and gray areas.

He was a founding member of Temple Habonim in Barrington, he was a member of The Lions Club, and he was instrumental in the development of Lischio Field in Slocum.

An avid sports fan, he coached multiple Little and Senior League baseball teams in the 90s, and was known to leave work early in order to shuttle his players to and from games whenever they found themselves without transportation. A bit excitable, he lamented in his later years that he was the only father who was ejected from a youth sporting event as both a coach and a fan. Nobody could doubt his passion.

Donations in his memory can be made to Jewish Family Service of Rhode Island, 959 N. Main St., Providence, RI 02904.

Irvin Cohen, 86

HILTON HEAD, S.C. – Irvin Marvin Cohen, of Hilton Head, South Carolina, passed away peacefully Aug. 15. He was born Oct. 27, 1930, in Lincolnton, North Carolina, to Gussie and Saul Cohen, both of blessed memory. Irvin graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a member of Pi Lambda Phi. He graduated from OCS in Newport and served as a naval officer for three years. He was in the ladies retail clothing business in Hickory, North Carolina. A lifelong Tarheel, he was also an avid golfer, sports enthusiast, brilliant businessman, devoted father and grandfather.

He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Doris; three daughters: Faye Kahn (David), Gayle Podhouser (Randy), Susan Grunwald (Scott); grandchildren: Sydney, Bailey and Zoe Grunwald, Jessica, Taylor and Samantha Podhouser, Michael and Andrew Kahn; and sisters, Madolyn (Dr. Ralph Geldbart of blessed memory) and Sarah O'Koon (Chuck).

Memorial donations may be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, www.lls.org; or the Crohns and Colitis Foundation www.crohnscolitisfoundation.org.

Fay Diamant, 99

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Fay Lipton Diamant passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Aug. 22. She was born in Brooklyn, New York to Pearl and Morris Bricker. She was the sister of the late Betty Rubin and Paul Bricker. She was married during World War II to her late husband Meyer Lipton and they were married for 40 years. She later married Daniel Diamant, whom she was married to for 20 years, before his passing at age 92.

She was a legal secretary during World War II and continued this career until she retired to Florida in 1974. An avid golfer and a yoga instructor, her passion was painting and she continued to paint into her 90s, getting inspiration for her subjects through her many travels and family.

Fay is survived by her daughter Barbara Halzel and her husband, Leonard, of Providence her daughter Sherry Andretta and her husband, John, of Miami Beach, Florida. She also leaves her grandsons Michael Halzel and Eric Halzel and his wife, Abby. Her great-grandchildren, Sabrina and Griffin, brought her much joy. Contributions in her memory may be made to Thyroid Cancers Survivors Association at THYCA.org or Hope Hospice & Palliative Care of RI, 1085 North Main St., Providence, RI 02904.

Doris 'Dodo' Hirsch, 94

EAST PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Doris "Dodo" (Fain) Hirsch died on Aug. 10 at Tockwotton on the Waterfront in East Providence. She was the beloved wife of the late Norton Hirsch.

Born in Providence, she was the daughter of the late Tillie (Blacher) Fain and Benjamin Alfred Fain of Providence. She graduated from Pembroke College in 1944 and worked in Providence as a social worker for three years upon graduation. She joined and helped run Balfred Floor Covering Co., a family run floor covering distributor until her retirement in 1993. She was a member of Temple Beth-El and Hadassah.

She was the loving mother of Tobey Lee and her husband Tom Brennan of Brewster, Massachusetts, and John and Susan Hirsch of Pawtucket. She was the loving grandmother of Benjamin and Erica Hirsch of Ellicott City, Maryland, and Joshua and Sara Hirsch of Denver, Colorado. She was the cherished great-grandmother of Zachary, Eliza and Nora. She was the beloved sister of the late Bernard I. Fain.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Rogers Fund at Tockwotton on the Waterfront, 500 Waterfront Drive, East Providence, RI 02914.

Leona Sherman, 99

NORWICH, CONN. – Leona (Smith) Sherman, 99, died Aug. 10. She was the wife of the late Bernard Sherman. Born in Providence, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Sarah (Finkel) Smith.

She is survived by her daughter Elanah Sherman; granddaughter Baylah Tessier-Sherman; grandson-in-law Bryan Hooper; nieces and nephew Susan Levin, Ada Winsten and Mark Sherman and his wife Jane; and dear friend Maria Disenna.

Donations may be made in her memory to the Ross Adult Day Center, c/o United Community and Family Services, 77 East Town St., Norwich, CT 06360.

ASK THE DIRECTOR

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

QUESTION: What exactly is a pre-arrangement?

D.D., Warwick

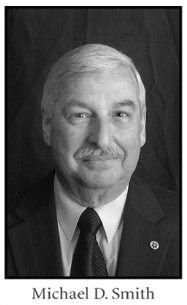
Dear D.D.,
A pre-arrangement is simply planning your funeral before your death. Many people pre-arrange to take the pressure off of their children, spouse or other survivors who may be in charge of arrangements. You can select exactly what you want for your own funeral, such as the type of service (chapel, graveside or temple) and casket. At a pre-arrangement conference, you would give the funeral director all of the necessary statistics for filing of the death certificate properly, contacting social security for your family and help writing the obituary. Also, you may decide whether you want to pre-pay or simply pre-plan at the conference.

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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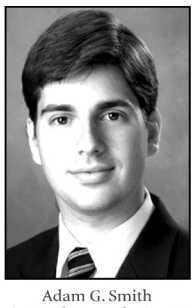
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FROM PAGE 1

LETTER

Imam Farid Ansari of the Muslim American Dawah Center of Rhode Island had the honor of reading aloud the letter from the Hebrew Congregation of Newport that prompted Washington's letter in reply. The initial letter, written in 1790 by Moses Seixas, an official of the congregation, focuses on the themes of religious freedom and equality of citizenship for all. The imam, just prior to his reading of Seixas' letter, stated, "Having a Muslim participate in a synagogue; what better sign to the world than this?"

Washington's letter, which was read by Stephen B. Kay, senior director, Goldman Sachs & Co. and a descendant of prominent 19th-century Newport Jews, includes the most famous words penned by Seixas: "Deprived as we heretofore have been of the invaluable rights of free Citizens, we now (with a deep sense of gratitude to the Almighty disposer of all events) behold a Government, erected by the Majesty of the People – a Government, which to bigotry gives no sanction, to persecution no assistance – but generously affording to All liberty of conscience, and immunities of Citizenship: deeming every one, of whatever Nation, tongue, or language, equal parts of the great governmental Machine…"



Imam Farid Ansari

PHOTO | JENNIFER CARTER PHOTOGRAPHY

Following the reading of these letters, Martha L. Minow, Carter Professor of General Jurisprudence, Harvard Law School, gave the keynote address. Minow called attention to the distinctions between the utterances from our first president and the current occupant of the White House. She began her address by stating: "Sadly, the annual reading of President George Washington's letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport is vital at this moment. The whole nation, including the current president, the holder of our public trust, needs to remember and reclaim the founders' vigilance against bigotry. A bigot, says the dictionary, is one who regards or treats the members of a group (such as a racial or ethnic group) with hatred and intolerance."



Martha Minow

Minow noted that many congregations wrote to George Washington, including Savannah, New York, Philadelphia, Charleston and Richmond. But it was the Newport congregation that prompted a presidential response. Indeed, this was a time when states were ratifying the US Constitution, and although Rhode Island was the last to ratify, it had already embodied principles of religious freedom in its own state constitution. "As if in dialogue with him, Rhode Island ratified the Constitution in May of 1790 – before passage of the Bill of Rights and guarantee of freedom of religion – and then the president agreed to come visit," said Minow.

At the end of her presentation, Minow said we need a response in the face of bigotry. We cannot be mere bystanders but instead we need to be "Upstanders," she said, coining a word that does not yet seem to have translations in other languages. She declared that "the term 'upstander' gives recognition and approval to people who stand up for their beliefs, even if they are alone; it means not being a bystander."

Minnow concluded by telling the audience that George Washington, although flawed, a slaveholder and a "control-freak," was an upstander, and so was Moses Seixas. "Let's see how we each can engage in respectful discussion and stand up for the values exemplified in their exchange." Her address was greeted with sustained applause from the audience.



Sister Jane Gerety

The congregation then adjourned to Patriots Park for a festive meal and the unveiling of a new monument with Moses Seixas' words alongside those of President George Washington.

SAM SHAMOON, of Providence, is a member of the Touro Synagogue Foundation Board of Directors.

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WE ARE READ – on Prince Edward Island – Mel and Cindy Yoken took The Voice with them to Prince Edward Island this summer. Here they are pictured on the northeastern-most tip of the island.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY – On July 4, Ruth Davis Gershman celebrated her 104th birthday with her family. Pictured are from left to right: Stacey and Brett Boisvert, Pamela Cohen, Ruth Gershman and Judith Goodman. Standing are Joel Cohen, Andrew Goodman, Norman Goodman, Linda and Bruce Weisman. Ruth lives at the Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence in Warwick.



Participants work on decorating their cakes.



The decorated cakes.

Project Shoresh engages women in 'Rebuilding the Temple One Cake at a Time'

Miriam Karp of Project Shoresh joined forces with Valerie Philmus of Temple Torat Yisrael in July to lead a three-week program for women, Rebuilding the Temple One Cake at a Time.

The women learned the beginner skills of cake decorating while exploring the significance of the three-week mourning period.

The group, which included women from East Greenwich, West Greenwich, Providence and Barrington, learned to mix colors and fill, twist and squeeze decorating bags to create masterpieces, which they later enjoyed eating. Decorations included stars, shells, hearts, pinwheels, geometric patterns and even a minyan!

Karp spoke to the group about how challenging it is for us to feel the sadness of a temple destroyed so long ago. If we tap into the pain, we feel for our brothers and sisters around the world today and perhaps we can access that sadness. It will be, she said, our acts of kindness and giving in response to this pain that can bring us to the third temple.

Temple Torat Yisrael, in East Greenwich, hosted the event.

Submitted by Project Shoresh, a nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting Jews to their roots.

IT'S A WRAP

BY SETH FINKLE

Today is bittersweet for me. It's Friday, August 25, 2017, and summer is coming to an end. This marks my third summer as the director of Camp Haverim. J-Camp 2017 has been a summer to remember. We had two sold-out weeks of American Ninja Warrior camp; a spirited Olympics week that saw Adam Greenman, the new president and CEO of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, join in on the staff fun; visits from the Providence police, Elisheva Stark an urban chicken farmer and Ruth Horton, a local beekeeper.

The children experienced a variety of local state parks through field trips that had them swimming and enjoying the summer sun all day. The campers got to see me become a human sundae and get dunked in our annual J-Camp carnival.

We have seen a record number of campers come through camp this summer, and the Dwares Jewish Community Center was filled with laughter, joy and lots of artwork.

Today also means we say goodbye to our amazing summer *schlicha*, Noam Spector. This was Noam's second summer with us, and we will miss her dearly. She was a great asset to the camp and campers. The campers loved learning about Israel from her, especially the unique dances she taught everyone. Noam has left a true love of Israel with everyone here at J-Camp. Thank you, Noam, for everything.

SETH FINKLE (sfinkle@jewishallianceri.org) directs teen programming for the Jewish Alliance when he's not at camp.



PHOTOS | JEWISH ALLIANCE OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Nursery Room 1 shows off their aerodynamic flying machine during week 8.



Noam Spector with some of the campers.



Campers had an opportunity to try on Providence police rain gear



Storyteller Valerie Tutson put on an all-camp performance on a Friday.



A group of Providence police ate lunch and danced with J-Campers.



Blue team gets their spirit on during Olympics/Maccabi week.